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17 NOV 1961

The
Health
of
Slough

1960

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
'GLENHARTIE',
15, BATH ROAD,
SLOUGH.

*To The Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Slough.*

MADAM MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you this Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Slough for 1960 - the twelfth which I have presented since I came here in 1950.

To find new comments each year upon events in the town so far as they relate to the health of its citizens is not an easy task.

Sometimes in the past I have reduced the size of this initial letter in the hope that more reading of the report itself might be stimulated but this did not appear to be very successful and so, I am opening the report by making comment upon some items which appear worthy of mention.

Migration into the town continued, and as the birth rate also increased the rise in population was more rapid than usual. Although, as you will see from the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the report, very little statutory overcrowding apparently exists, the number of young families living with their in-laws seems to me to be increasing. I must admit that this is only a personal impression and that I have no firm statistics to back it up, but there is no doubt that many young families are unable to have their own home and to this extent overcrowding in the wider sense of the word most certainly continues.

The death rate was neither high or low, the infant mortality rate rose considerably but we may gain comfort from the fact that the number of stillbirths was very small.

With the appalling weather experienced during the last half of the year it is perhaps not surprising that the infectious diseases usually associated with heat and flies were practically non-existent. Encouragement may also be taken from the fact that once again no case of poliomyelitis occurred during the year. The number of new cases of tuberculosis showed, it is true, no decrease compared with 1959 but the number of deaths from this disease is lower than ever before.

In looking back over the years one sees a changing pattern in public health, but it always seems that as one problem fades away another takes its place. Whether these problems are, in fact, new, or come to the surface because the more obvious scourges have been eliminated is difficult to tell but, as in the case of personal illness the problems of mental health have largely superseded those of infection, so in the environmental field attention is being drawn away more and more from the problems of hygiene and sanitation to the more difficult and controversial problems of clean air and noise.

Attempts to eliminate dangers such as those associated with smoke must inevitably appear slow in the early stages. Although it is even now, possible to notice that the air is cleaner than it was it must be borne in mind that although black smoke is, admittedly, unpleasant and noxious, the mere removal of blackness does not necessarily mean the removal of dangers associated with all exhausts as many harmful factors in waste gases are invisible. Clean air must also be harmless air.

The problem of noise is even more difficult for not only is there nothing to see but the reaction of different individuals to the same noise may be very different. To the young the roar of motor cycles and the loud playing of transistor radio sets is often part of the joy of living, but whilst these noises may be merely distracting to those of more mature years, to the elderly they may often lead to a breakdown in health either because of the inability to act in the presence of loud or sudden noise, or else by the prevention of necessary sleep and rest. The problem of noise from jet engines is fortunately not so serious in Slough as it is in parts of the surrounding countryside, but the abhorrently loud high pitched roar of four engined jet aircraft in the middle of the night can do nothing but harm, except perhaps to the few who are on the aircraft itself.

I have often mentioned the reluctance of most of us to complain about dirty conditions in restaurants, or short weight in shops but it is no use depending upon officers of the Council to put these matters right unless they in turn can depend upon the assistance of the general public.

A report on the work carried out by the Public Health Inspector is given in Mr. Stroud's section of the report, and probably the most satisfying point in the section concerned with food is that relating to the slaughter of animals. By having all slaughtering facilities under the control of the local authority and 100% inspection of all carcasses, the housewife of this town is assured of a safe home killed meat supply.

I cannot end this letter without first expressing my personal appreciation of the work carried out by all members of the Department each task plays its part in the running of the machine and it is no

truism to say that the importance of the job rests not upon its title but upon the way in which it is carried out. Much of the Department's work would, however, come to nought if the Council refused to endorse the work of its Officers and it is, therefore, only right that I should in conclusion thank the Health Committee, under the Chairmanship of Alderman F.S.G. Room, for the way in which it has persuaded the Council to give the maintenance of the health of the public its due place in its programme during 1960.

I am, Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

MACDONALD A. CHARRETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

JULY 1961.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1960

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	6,276 acres
Population Registrar-General's Estimate for mid 1960	77,410
Number of dwelling-houses, including flats at 31st March, 1961	22,784
Rateable value as at 31st March 1961 ...	£1,837,223
Estimated Product of Penny Rate 1961/62 ...	£7,600

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1960

Live Births:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	689	656	1345
Illegitimate	43	38	81
Total	732	694	1426

Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	18.4
Corrected Birth Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) (Comparability factor 0.91)	16.74
National Birth Rate	17.1
Ratio of local Birth Rate to National Rate	0.98 1
Illegitimate live births were 5.68% of total live births	

Still Births:	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	10	7	17
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	11	7	18

Total of live and still births	1444
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births	12.46
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	0.23

Deaths:	Males	Females	Total
	368	298	666

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.6
Corrected Death Rate (allowing for sex and age of the population) (Comparability figure 1.36)	11.69
National Death Rate per 1,000 population	11 5
Ratio of Local Death Rate to National Rate	1 01 1

Maternal Deaths:

Number of women dying in, or as a consequence
of pregnancy

- NIL

Infant Mortality: (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age)

Deaths:						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	18	15	33
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Total						20	16	36

Total Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000

Live Births

- 25.24

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per

1 000 legitimate live births

24.53

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per

1 000 illegitimate live births

- 37.03

National Rate per 1,000 live births

- 21.7

Ratio of Local Rate to National Rate

- 1.16

Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age)

Deaths						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	13	9	22
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Total						14	10	24

Rate for all infants under 4 weeks of age
per 1 000 live births

16.83

Peri-Natal Mortality (Still-births and deaths of infants under 1 week of age)

						Males	Females	Total
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	14	9	23
Still births	...	...	...	...	...	11	7	18
Total						25	16	41

Rate per 1 000 total live and still-births

- 28.39

Death Rates per 1,000 population:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis - 0.04

All forms of Tuberculosis - 0.05

Cancer - 1.16

Other Deaths:

						Males	Females	Total
Cancer						75	54	129
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Non Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...		1	1

I. VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

After allowing for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar General credited the Borough of Slough with 1,426 live-births in 1960; 732 were male and 694 were female. With an increase of 120 upon the previous year, the number of births exceeded the 1,400 mark, but strangely enough this is not the first time this has occurred; no less than 1,403 births were recorded in 1947 when the Registrar General estimated the population to be 64,240 but 1960 does show by the small margin of 23 the greatest number of births ever having occurred in the town. The crude birth rate of 18.4 per thousand of the population compares with the rate of 17.3 in 1959. By multiplying the crude birth rate by the comparability factor (which for Slough is 0.91) the corrected birth rate is 16.74. This calculation, which makes allowance for the age and sex composition of the population of the town, enables a comparison to be made with the national figure and also with any other areas for which the corrected rate has been calculated. As the comparability factor for Slough remains at less than one there is the indication that the proportion of the population in the child bearing age group still remains greater than in the country as a whole. It seems strange, therefore, that the birth rate in Slough has consistently been below that for England and Wales but as will be seen from the table below the ratio between the Slough birth rate and the National rate is much nearer parity than it has been for a very long time.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Corrected Birth Rate Slough</i>	<i>Birth Rate England & Wales</i>	<i>Ratio Slough : England & Wales</i>
1950	13.79	15.9	0.87 : 1
1951	13.62	15.5	0.88 : 1
1952	13.38	15.3	0.88 : 1
1953	12.64	15.5	0.81 : 1
1954	13.37	15.2	0.88 : 1
1955	13.35	15.0	0.89 : 1
1956	13.51	15.7	0.86 : 1
1957	14.3	16.1	0.89 : 1
1958	15.76	16.4	0.96 : 1
1959	15.74	16.5	0.95 : 1
1960	16.74	17.1	0.98 : 1

ILLEGITIMACY

The total number of illegitimate births, both live and still was 82 compared with 81 in 1959 and only 65 in 1958. Of these 43 1 births and 1 stillbirth were male and 38 live births were females.

There were therefore 81 illegitimate births out of a total of 1,426 live births, that is to say an illegitimacy rate of 56.8 per 1,000; this is a decrease of 3.1 over the preceding year.

The rate for England and Wales in 1960 was 54 per thousand.

STILLBIRTHS

18 stillbirths were registered during the year of which 17 were legitimate and 1 illegitimate. This number gives a rate of 12 per thousand total births or 0.23 per thousand of the population.

STILLBIRTH RATES		SLOUGH
1950	...	22.9
1951	...	20.1
1952	...	17.6
1953	...	16.55
1954	...	25.0
1955	...	25.7
1956	...	25.9
1957	...	19.6
1958	...	25.2
1959	...	26.8
1960	...	12.46

From this table it can be seen that the stillbirth rate in 1960 was far lower than recorded before. However, before we become particularly jubilant about this fact, we should, I suggest, look at the stillbirth rate in conjunction with the infant mortality rate. A comment upon this is made under perinatal mortality later in the report.

DEATHS

The total of 666 deaths which the Registrar General assigned to the Borough after allowing for inward and outward transfers was 2% less than in 1959. As the population has also increased compared with the previous year the crude death rate fell quite dramatically from 9.13 to 8.6. As will be seen from the table below, however, there are quite marked fluctuations in the death rates from year to year.

and 1960 did not appear exceptional. After multiplying by the death comparability factor of 1.36 the corrected death rate was shown to be 11.69 per thousand population. This is 0.73 less than in 1959; male deaths in 1960 were once again considerably in excess of females; no less than 368 of the 666 being males; 298 were females.

DEATH RATE - SLOUGH		
Year	Crude Death Rate	Corrected Death Rate
1951	8.87	10.73
1952	8.56	10.35
1953	7.68	9.29
1954	7.60	9.35
1955	8.625	10.60
1956	8.47	11.1
1957	8.5	11.05
1958	7.74	10.53
1959	9.13	12.42
1960	8.6	11.69

The six main causes of death remained the same as in the previous year:-

	1959	1960
Heart disease	215	217
Cancer	139	129
Vascular lesions of nervous system	77	82
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	87	77
Accidents, all types	24	26
Other circulatory diseases	22	25

The vascular diseases (heart disease, vascular lesions of the nervous system and other diseases of the circulatory system) unfortunately continued to show an upward trend but it was heartening to see that cancer was responsible for 10 fewer deaths than in 1959.

Accidents were responsible for 26 deaths as compared with 24 in the previous year but motor vehicle accidents remain at the figure of 14. During the past few years it has been a practice to high-light cancer of the lung, deaths from which have risen very rapidly during the past 10 years; it is then very gratifying to be able to report that in 1960 there were only 30 deaths from this cause as compared with 39 in 1959; as this disease is predominantly one of men the greater part of the reduction was in the male sex. This welcome diminution in the number of deaths must not necessarily be taken to mean any change in the overall trend as only one year is

involved and the number of deaths is relatively small. However, any diminution in the number of sufferers from this most unpleasant disease must be more than doubly welcome. As has been stated previously there is a very strong relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer although it is not suggested that cigarette smoking is the sole cause of this disease. Attempts by Health Departments to bring home this relationship to young people whose smoking habits may not yet have become fixed, have resulted in almost total failure. It is difficult to assess the reason for this but it probably lies in the fact that desire to smoke is an emotional one whether it be associated with 'manliness', a desire to impress the girl friend, or merely a wish to do the same as others whereas the campaign to prevent people from smoking is based not only upon reason and intellect but so far as young people are concerned upon events which are likely to happen so far in the future as to be in the 'never never land'.

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS - SLOUGH DEATHS		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1950	15	3
1951	25	5
1952	19	4
1953	15	1
1954	19	2
1955	20	5
1956	25	1
1957	28	5
1958	25	3
1959	35	4
1960	27	3

CAUSES OF DEATH	1959		1960	
	M	F	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	7	-	2	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	1	-	1
3. Syphilitic disease	-	1	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	-	-	1	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	14	12	9	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	35	4	27	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast		11		13
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus		7		6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	32	24	39	25
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	3	2	1
16. Diabetes	4	1	2	5
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	31	46	30	52
18. Coronary disease, angina	64	42	64	42
19. Hypertension with heart disease	8	13	5	4
20. Other heart disease	41	47	52	50
21. Other circulatory disease	7	15	14	11
22. Influenza	4	4	1	1
23. Pneumonia	21	16	23	9
24. Bronchitis	40	10	32	13
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system ...	2	2	4	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	3	3	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	5	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3	5	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6		5	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion		-		-
31. Congenital malformations	5	5	5	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	22	26	28	30
33. Motor vehicle accidents	9	5	7	7
34. All other accidents	5	5	6	6
35. Suicide	7	3	2	4
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
ALL CAUSES ...	375	314	368	298

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS 1960

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all deaths attributed to the Borough during 1960 by local Registrars. The figures include all deaths which actually occurred during the year even although in some cases notification of their occurrence may not have been received until 1961 either because they had occurred in other areas or because the deaths were the subject of inquests by coroners.

There is always a slight discrepancy between the total number given in this table and that given in the preceding one which is taken from the Registrar General's returns. As his machines have to be allocated to other work shortly after the beginning of the new year he is unable to take notice of late notifications whereas I am able to record in their proper year deaths which may not have been received until as much as two, three or four months after the end of the year in which they occurred.

Ages at Death in Years:				Males	Females	Total
Under 1	...	...	...	19	15	34
1 -	...	...	...	4	2	6
10 -	...	...	...	6	4	10
25 -	...	...	...	18	14	32
45 -	...	...	...	122	67	189
65 -	...	...	...	43	32	75
				— 212	— 134	— 346
70 -	...	...	...	52	31	83
75 -	...	...	...	50	49	99
80 -	...	...	...	29	47	76
85 -	...	...	...	15	22	37
90 -	...	...	...	9	12	21
95 and over	...	...	...	1	1	2
				— 156	— 162	— 318

Of the 664 deaths, 318 (47.7%) were of persons over the age 70 years and 393 (59.1%) over the accepted retiring age of 65 years. The respective percentages in 1959 were 53.3 and 64.8, and in 1958 45.9 and 60.1.

These percentages, of course, are of total deaths. If however one separates the sexes, men do not do so well; only 42.3% of their deaths occurred over the age of 70 compared with 54.7% of females. Once again the 'dangerous age' for men was between 45 and 65 years 122 died in this group

<i>Cause</i>	<i>No. of cases</i>	<i>Loss of working years</i>	<i>Average loss of working years per case</i>	<i>Average age at death</i>
1. Heart Disease	36	445	12.3	52.6
2. Cancer	46	396	8.6	56.4
3. Accidents, all types	10	283	28.3	36.7
4. Pneumonia & Bronchitis	14	136	9.7	55.3
5. Nephritis & Nephrosis	6	61	10.0	55
6. Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	48	6.0	59

The table above enumerates the six groups of diseases or conditions causing the greatest upset of family life by killing men during their working lives. The deaths included are those for males between the ages of 10 and 65 years.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

As I said last year, a death in 1957 broke a long record of safe child birth which had existed since 1951. It has, however, been the only death from this cause in ten years and during that period there have been no less than 10,261 births.

It has become almost fashionable to criticise the maternity services which, because of increasing population, and shortage of staff, have been under very severe pressure. At least, therefore one tribute should be paid to the nurses and doctors who have contributed to such a wonderful record in this town of safe motherhood during the past decade.

INFANT MORTALITY

After correction for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar General allotted 36 deaths of children under the age of one year (20 males and 16 females). This is thirteen more than in 1959 and means, regrettably, an increase in the infant mortality rate to 25.2 per 1,000 births in 1960 compared with 17.6 in 1959.

Such an increase in infant deaths is at first sight extremely disturbing and one begins to wonder whether there has in fact been some deterioration in the maternity services during the period under review. I mentioned however, earlier in this report that although the stillbirth rate was the lowest which had ever been recorded in the town, it was not possible to be overjoyed on that account because there was a compensating increase in infant mortality. If one takes infant deaths and stillbirths together, the overall picture becomes much more encouraging and I comment upon this particular facet of the statistics under the heading of Peri-Natal Mortality.

Local records show that there were 34 deaths (19 male and 15 female) of children under the age of one year during 1960 and not 3 as recorded by the Registrar General. All calculations of rates, however, are based upon the Registrar General's figures, but the table on page 15 and giving details of causes of deaths of infants compiled from local records.

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY

In order to explain this I would like to quote a paragraph from the Ministry of Health circular issued in April 1961 on the prevention of prematurity and care of premature infants:

‘‘It is often a matter of chance whether an infant is born dead or dies soon after birth so that it is desirable to examine peri-natal, neo-natal, and early neo-natal death as a single problem. Since prematurity plays such an important part in causing peri natal mortality the only way to reduce it substantially is by finding and using methods of preventing prematurity and by conserving the life of infants born prematurely.’’

The paragraph also says that the peri natal mortality rate in England and Wales in 1959 was 34 per 1,000 live and stillbirths and that if it could be reduced to that obtaining in, say Sweden in 1959 of 28 per 1 000 live and stillbirths, some 5 000 infants lives would be saved annually. The peri natal mortality rate is calculated by taking stillbirths and deaths occurring during the first week of life and expressing this figure as a ratio per 1 000 births. If we look at this aspect so far as Slough is concerned, we find that in 1960 23 infants died during the first week of life and 18 stillbirths occurred, making a total of 41. There were 1,426 live and 18 stillbirths during the year and the number of 41 who failed to survive indicates a loss of 28.3 children for each 1,000 total births. Let us compare this figure with those of the last 5 years -

1955	-	47.4		
1956	-	44		
1957	-	32.9	1960	- 28.3
1958	-	34.4		
1959	-	34		

There is no room for complacency. Improved and more adequately staffed services, and improved knowledge by expectant mothers of services available could improve the figure even further.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

If the Registrar General's figures are used, then calculations show that of the 36 infants who died during their first year of life, no less than two thirds, that is 24, died within the first month and all of these were associated with prematurity, birth injury, or congenital abnormalities. These 24 deaths represent a neo-natal mortality rate of 16.8 per 1,000 live births.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF ALL INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

CAUSE OF DEATH	UNDER 1 DAY	1 - 2 DAYS	3 - 5 DAYS	6 - 7 DAYS	TOTAL UNDER 1 WEEK	1 - 2 WEEKS	3 - 4 WEEKS	TOTAL UNDER 1 MONTH	1 - 3 MONTHS	4 - 6 MONTHS	7 - 9 MONTHS	10-12 MONTHS	TOTAL UNDER 1 YEAR
Motor Vehicle Accident	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia & Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	2	6
Prematurity	7	1	2	2	12	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
Birth Injury	4	1	2	-	7	1	-	8	-	-	-	-	8
Congenital Abnormalities	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	4
Acute Otitis Media	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Rhesus Incompatibility	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Hypothyroidism	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
TOTALS	12	4	4	2	22	1	-	23	4	4	-	3	34

INQUESTS

Thirty five inquests upon residents of the Borough were held compared with thirty-eight the previous year. The causes of death as recorded by the Registrars of Births and Deaths following receipt of the Coroner's verdicts are set out in the following table:-

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Natural Causes	2	1	3
Accidents:			
Falls	2	1	3
Road accidents ...	7	8	15
Gunshot wound ...	1	.	1
Asphyxia	1	1	2
Fumes from oil heater	2		2
Suicide:			
Coal gas poisoning ...	1	2	3
Hanging	-	1	1
Barbiturate poisoning	1	2	3
Open Verdict:			
Drowning	1	-	1
Coal gas poisoning ...	-	1	1
TOTAL ...	18	17	35

POPULATION

The popularity of the town as a place of residence seems to be never ending and once again a substantial increase of population was experienced in the twelve months between June 1959 and June 1960; by the latter date the Registrar General estimated a total of 77 410 living within the boundary of the Borough as compared with 75,450 a year before. This increase is, by a strange coincidence, exactly the same as the number of the year, 1,960. Although there was a natural increase (that is births less deaths) of 760, a net immigration of 1,200 was responsible for the greater part of the increase. Just ten years ago, the population was slightly more than 11,000 below the present figure, that is to say 66 340.

II. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

CLEANSING AND DISINFESTATION, DISPOSAL OF REFUSE AND KITCHEN WASTE

No changes occurred in these services during the year under review and I do not propose to make any special comment. A satisfactory service was maintained under each of the headings mentioned above although labour difficulties created problems from time to time.

WATER

Slough Corporation Water Supply.

Another 484 dwelling houses were connected to the water supply during 1960. The water undertaking continued to allow the use of hoses for gardens but restricted the use of these to between 7 p.m. and 10.0 p.m. The summer of 1960 was, however, rather cool with a considerable rain fall and the drain upon the water supply during year for the use of hoses must have been very much less than it was in 1959 which was one of the hottest and driest summers on record. Frequent bacteriological analyses were made during the year and all of the 112 samples taken proved to be satisfactory. Periodic chemical analyses were made and the result of a typical sample is given below.

(Chemical Results in Parts Per Million)

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright with very few particles
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Less than 3
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
pH	...	...	...	...	7.2
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	30
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	640
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	...	...	...	...	470
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	39
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	235
Hardness Total	...	...	...	...	320
Carbonate	...	...	...	...	235
Non-carbonate	...	...	...	...	85
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	3.6
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.20
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.018
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Absent
Metals - Iron, Zinc, Copper & Lead	...	...	...	...	Absent
Fluorine (F)	...	...	...	...	0.60

(Method: Perchloric acid distillation
thorium nitrate titration)

The analyst's report was as follows:

“This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance because it carries only a few particles of matter in suspension.

The water is neutral in reaction, very hard in character but not excessively so, contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is free from iron and other metals.

Organic quality is very satisfactory.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.’’

The results of the chemical analyses change remarkably little from year to year. There has been some reduction in the fluoride content during the past few years and it is encouraging to know that there was no fall between 1959 and 1960. A small amount of fluorine in the water helps to prevent dental decay and there is no doubt that the teeth of children living in the area supplied by the Slough Corporation Water Undertaking show less dental caries than children living in areas without natural or added fluorine. Should the water of the Slough Undertaking be diluted by that of any other undertaking owing to some process of amalgamation then I hope that due attention will be paid at the proper time to the amount of free fluorine available in the resulting water.

Urban, Dorney and Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.

The company supplied 15 additional houses during 1960. 66 samples were submitted for chemical and bacteriological analyses and all showed the water to be of the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

The company uses the super-chlorination and dechlorination method of treatment.

Slough Estates Limited Water Supply

No changes occurred either in the method of water treatment or in the extent of the Company's supply during 1960. Samples submitted for examination were satisfactory.

Swimming Bath Water

Five swimming baths were in use in this town during 1960. There are two public baths, one at the Community Centre and one in the grounds of Baylis House and three private baths, St. Bernards Convent School, Licensed Victuallers School and Long Close School. The first mentioned is an indoor heated pool and is used all the year round but the others are open-air pools and so are in use in the summer

months only. Samples were taken regularly from all five baths during the times when they were open to the public or used by school children. Five isolated unsatisfactory results were obtained but further follow-up samples were taken and all of these were satisfactory.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Riding Establishments Act, 1939

Regular reports were received on the establishments in the Borough from Mr. J.E. Garland, Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Borough Council. No adverse reports were received.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

Once again I am pleased to report that it was not necessary to take action under this section during the year.

STAFF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The following table shows the number of staff medical examinations carried out during the year. Once again there was an increase, and with an average now nearing four per week it becomes more and more difficult to find medical time to undertake this work. Each examination takes about half an hour and this means roughly the equivalent of a doctor's full time work for about three weeks in each year.

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Officers of Slough Borough Council	36	29	46	34	44
Officers of Bucks County Council	89	60	81	91	94
For admission to Teachers' Training Colleges and teaching for the first time	48	37	34	46	51
Servants entering Superannuation Scheme	10	44	27	16	28
TOTALS	183	170	188	187	217

LABORATORY

1,286 examinations were carried out during the year and this shows a slight increase - 68 - upon the number carried out in 1959 which was in itself about 100 higher than in the previous year. Generally speaking the work as a whole shows a continuation of the trend which has existed for a number of years, in other words, decrease in the examinations for clinical purposes and increase in the examination of waters, milks and ice creams. The number of milk samples in particular shows quite a considerable increase upon the previous year and it is perhaps interesting to note that a certain proportion of these results were unsatisfactory. The eight unsatisfactory samples were from two local producers and occurred within a short period during the summer. Following investigation into the unsatisfactory results, follow-up samples proved satisfactory.

There were two unsatisfactory results of drinking water. The samples were taken from a 48" borehole at the waterworks site following the carrying out of maximum yield tests. The well is used as a standby only and following purification treatment the water is satisfactory.

The number of ice cream samples taken was almost exactly the same as in 1959 and there were in each of the two years one sample only which fell below Grade 1. However, as this was Grade 2 we may say that the samples were satisfactory. The record of 1959 so far as samples was concerned was therefore equalled but as the summer of 1960 was rather cold and wet perhaps the result was obtained somewhat more easily than it was during 1959 which had an exceptionally warm and dry summer.

It may be mentioned here that the period from July to November 1960 was the wettest for more than 200 years in England and Wales. There was no spell of fine warm days in the five months and we suffered the wettest October for 57 years.

	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	-	11
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci	-	-
Swabs for other examinations	4	-
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	-	-
Urine for routine examinations	155	-
Faeces for organisms of Coli/Typhoid Group	-	84
Blood Counts	38	-

	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Milk Samples:		
(a) Phosphatase test	150	-
(b) Methylene blue test	179	8
(c) Turbidity test	5	-
(d) Chemical tests for fats, solids and water	332	22

Water Samples:		
(a) Drinking Water	96	2
(b) Swimming bath water	67	5

Ice Cream:		
(a) Chemical tests	63	-
(b) Bacteriological tests		
Grade I	65	
Grade II	1	
Grade III	-	
Grade IV	-	

	NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN					PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES				
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Grade I	75	57	56	67	65	75	96.6	87.5	98.5	98.5
Grade II	12	2	1	1	1	12	3.4	1.6	1.5	1.5
Grade III	6	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	6	Nil	6.2	Nil	Nil
Grade IV	6	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	6	Nil	4.7	Nil	Nil

BOROUGH MORTUARY

Once again the number of post-mortem examinations carried out at the mortuary was considerably more than the previous year and the table below shows the very remarkable increase of work which has been carried out at the mortuary during the past few years. Additional refrigeration plant was installed during the year. Further addition and improvements may be required if the demand upon the service continues to grow.

1956	-	76
1957	-	100
1958	-	103
1959	-	115
1960	-	125

HOME HELP SERVICE

The following table gives details of the home help service locally during the year:-

Number of Home Helps as at:	31.12.59	31.12.60
(a) Full-time		
(b) Part time	53	48
Number of cases who received help during	1959	1960
(a) Acute sick	112	78
(b) Chronic sick	109	100
(c) Old age	266	254
(d) Tuberculosis	3	?
(e) Maternity	63	84
TOTAL	553	524

Five old folk were enabled to cling to their homes under the care of a good neighbour who was paid for an agreed service, and two problem families were assisted under the scheme organised by the County Council in 1958. By using carefully selected home helps, problem families may under certain circumstances reap considerable benefit from help and instruction given to them.

A charge for home help service is made, based upon a scale laid down by the County Council. The charge is estimated after evidence of the need for assistance has been shown and the amount of assistance given to each case is based primarily upon need and not upon ability to pay.

III. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEARS 1950 TO 1960

YEAR	CASES NOTIFIED AND POPULATION IN THOUSANDS										
	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
POPULATION IN THOUSANDS	77	75	73	71	69	67	67	66	66	66	66
Acute Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	-	-	-	3	5	5	1	5	11	7	7
Non-Paralytic	-	-	14	1	5	6	1	2	9	7	8
Dysentery ...	8	1	1	6	-	19	3	6	3	2	3
Encephalitis - Infective	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
Post - Infective	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Enteric Fever	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	9	22	12	9	18	14	15	17	14	12	14
Food Poisoning	3	2	9	1	-	-	-	6	3	-	-
Malaria	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Measles	244	797	442	1001	52	1185	29	526	778	1681	76
Meningococcal Infection	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
Pneumonia	17	71	31	29	19	41	53	64	33	44	32
Puerperal Pyrexia	29	41	38	25	23	21	25	24	26	6	5
Scarlet Fever	32	68	39	36	27	11	70	215	117	33	54
Whooping Cough	27	46	64	69	64	56	78	143	101	226	98

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN WARDS OF BOROUGH

	BURNHAM NORTH	BURNHAM SOUTH	CENTRAL NORTH	CENTRAL SOUTH	CHALVEY	FARNHAM NORTH	FARNHAM SOUTH	LANGLEY	STOKE NORTH	STOKE SOUTH	UPTON
Dysentery	1	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	1	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	4	1	5	5	4	2	-	209	-	-	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Pneumonia	-	2	2	1	2	-	1	7	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	24
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	5	4	1	1	13	-	2	4
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	6	2	2	26
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	3
Whooping Cough ...	6	3	6	1	2	2	-	1	-	6	-

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APL.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL
Dysentery	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	8
Erysipelas	-	2	1	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	9
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
Measles	2	2	4	-	17	16	-	1	1	1	70	130	244
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Pneumonia	1	3	1	3	-	3	-	-	1	1	2	2	17
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	2	6	7	2	1	-	1	1	2	4	29
Scarlet Fever	4	8	5	4	4	-	1	2	1	1	-	2	32
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	5	2	5	6	1	2	3	7	4	4	3	9	51
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	5
Whooping Cough	-	-	3	1	1	2	2	4	1	-	8	5	27

DIPHTHERIA

Once again I am able to report that no case of diphtheria occurred in the Borough.

During the past year or two there have been quite a number of small outbreaks reported from different parts of the country and it is therefore perfectly obvious that the diphtheria germ which has been kept under control by means of immunisation for quite a number of years is still in existence and ready once again to rear its ugly head should it come across a population which has lost, or never had, its immunity. For the individual, of course, it is important that immunity is both attained and retained or illness may well result, but from the point of view of the community, although 100 per cent community protection is not attainable, the level must reach and be maintained at or above about 75 per cent or the germ which has unfortunately been able to cause disease in one person will be passed on to others without sufficient protection and these will in turn become ill.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Boosters</i>
1951	855	1256
1952	762	1160
1953	826	1212
1954	867	1425
1955	600	1198
1956	660	1014
1957	506	1187
1958	579	369
1959	783	563
1960	893	626

In 1960 a total of 893 children, including 249 who had combined vaccine, had their initial dose, and a further 626 received their booster dose. Of the 893 who received their initial dose, 584 were under one year of age; this may at first sight seem good but 406 babies were born in 1959 and 1426 in 1960.

The great reduction in booster doses in 1958, 1959 and 1960 is no doubt been associated with the intensive programme of poliomyelitis vaccination. It will be seen, however, that the total number of children receiving diphtheria immunisation is increasing again and it is hoped that a very high level will once again be attained now that the main poliomyelitis vaccination campaign is nearly ended.

WHOOPIING COUGH

Only 27 cases of whooping cough were notified during 1960 and this is considerably fewer than for many years past. On the whole once again the disease was mild. During the year 938 children were given protection against whooping cough as compared with 1008 in 1959. Of these 689 received the single antigen and 249 received the combined vaccine. In 1959, 789 received the single antigen and 219 the combined vaccine.

SCARLET FEVER

32 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, and of this number 17 were notified during the first three months, and a but seven occurred during the first half year. It is interesting to note that the high incidence in the first quarter of 1960 followed the trend set during the last three months of 1959.

ERYSIPELAS

As this condition is caused by the same germ which caused Scarlet Fever, the trend in notifications usually follows fairly closely that of Scarlet Fever. For some reason or other the incidence of Erysipelas appears to have been particularly low during 1960, only nine cases being notified during the year, but as in the case of Scarlet Fever the main incidence occurred during the first half year only two cases arising during the last six months of 1960.

MEASLES

Although 1960 was not a measles year, 244 cases were in fact notified but of these no less than 200 arose during the months of November and December when the epidemic which reached its peak during the early months of 1961 was beginning.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

There was a welcome drop in the number of notifications of this condition - from 41 in 1959 to 29 in 1960. If one refers to the table giving the incidence by wards of the Borough it will be seen that of the total, no less than 24 were allocated to Upton Ward.

All hospital maternity beds in the town are situated at Upton Hospital which is, as may be imagined, in Upton Ward. Maternity beds must of course cater not only for normal, but for abnormal, cases and it is in association with the latter that raised temperature, that is to say Puerperal Pyrexia, most commonly occurs.

POLIOMYELITIS

The number of cases of poliomyelitis in England and Wales during 1960 was very much less than it has been for some considerable time and in this context it is very pleasing to be able to say that the town once again escaped. No case has been reported since 1957.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

During 1960 the Ministry of Health gave permission for polio immunisation to be given to all people up to the age of 40, plus certain groups of people who were considered to be particularly at risk. These groups include

- expectant mothers
- General Practitioners and their families
- Ambulance drivers/attendants and their families
- Hospital staffs (who come into contact with patients) and their families
- Dental staffs and their families
- Practising nurses not working in hospital and their families
- Public Health staffs who might come into contact with poliomyelitis cases, and their families

The immunisation programme was carried out by both the public health department staff and by family doctors and continued without cessation, but the number of persons eligible for inoculation who came forward was rather disappointing. One would have expected, perhaps, that as the age groups now eligible included those likely to have young families of their own, and have among them the more responsible members of the community, that the response would have been good. Perhaps, however, owing to the fact that no well known personality contracted or died from the disease no sense of urgency or panic was introduced into the population. The experience of 1959 showed undoubtedly that publicity given to the misfortunes of one well-known individual can have very much more effect than the distress or death of hundreds or even thousands of "average persons".

Three injections are needed to give full protection, the interval between the first two being not less than three weeks and the interval between second and third being not less than seven months; no real immunity is obtained until some days after the second injection. This means that the panic reaction of the public is in fact useless as a short-term safeguard and that no individual or community benefit can possibly occur from immunisation for a period of some weeks. It is possible, however, with the oral vaccine which may be available shortly, that control of an epidemic by means of a rapidly produced immunity may be possible.

As the immunisation programme is the responsibility of the Bucks County Council and arrangements were made for the South Bucks area, consisting of the Borough of Slough, and the Urban and Rural Districts of Eton, it has not been possible to show separate figures for the town only. In the South Bucks Area, however, 10,119 persons had two injections against poliomyelitis, and 13,748 had the third booster injection; this total of 23,867 compares with 39,587 in 1959.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccination against smallpox on the other hand became considerably more popular during 1960 and the number of primary vaccinations increased by just over 200 to a total of 929. Re-vaccinations which are usually carried out on persons going abroad rose from 94 in 1959 to 121 in 1960.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

134 persons were given active protection against tetanus during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

(a) New Cases.

- (i) *Pulmonary Tuberculosis*. The number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis has been fluctuating during the past few years and there was a rise of eleven cases as compared with 1959. Out of the 51 cases notified during the year 33 were males and 18 females. In spite of the rise compared with the previous year the number of notifications is now running at a level somewhat less than half of what it was 10 years ago and the rate of 0.63 per thousand of the population is the third lowest ever recorded.
- (ii) *Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis*. Only five cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1960 and all these occurred in females. Only on one previous occasion has a lower number occurred during the period of a year but as the numbers during the past few years have always been less than ten there is no special comment to be made upon this item for the year under review.

The following table shows the details of the age and sex incidence of all new cases notified during the year: -

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
<i>Age in Years</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
0 -	1	-	-	-
1 -	3	3	-	1
15 -	3	6	-	-
25 -	6	4	-	3
35 -	6	-	-	1
45 -	13	4	-	-
65 and over	1	1	-	-
TOTALS	33	18	-	5

(b) Notification Register.

The number of cases on the register at the 31st December, 1960 was as follows:

PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY		
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
566	340	906	59	60	119

The register is made up of new cases and 'inward transfers', minus 'outward transfers', cures and deaths. The number showed an increase of 28 in the pulmonary section and one in the non-pulmonary section. These increases were considerably less than the number of new notifications.

(c) B. C. G. Vaccination.

1792 children in the thirteen to fourteen year age group were eligible for B. C. G. vaccination in 1960. Of this number 1422 accepted the test to determine sensitivity to tuberculosis. It is pleasing to observe that the number of children accepting, expressed as a percentage of those eligible, has risen from 69% to 79% in the last three years. Of the number accepting the test, 1348 showed no reaction and these children were then given 0.1 B.C.G. vaccine into the skin of an upper arm. The remaining 74 who had shown some experience of tuberculosis were then offered X-ray and, if necessary, follow-up at the chest clinic, at Upton Hospital.

The following table shows the numbers tested each year since 1956 and number noted as positive and negative. The proportion of those showing previous experience of tuberculosis shows a steady decrease and this year is less than one-third of that for 1956.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Tested</i>	<i>Number Positive</i>	<i>Number Negative</i>
1956	832	138 (16.6%)	694 (83.4%)
1957	1013	116 (11.46%)	897 (88.54%)
1958	1009	116 (11.49%)	893 (88.51%)
1959	937	90 (9.6%)	847 (90.4%)
1960	1422	74 (5.2%)	1348 (94.8%)

(d) **Deaths from Tuberculosis.**

There were only three deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one death from the Non Pulmonary form of the disease. The total number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis has never been lower than the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis is now about one-fifth of what it was ten years ago and about one-third of the figure found in 1955. There are such small numbers being recorded that even one or two extra deaths in any year must make quite marked variations in the recorded rates but by reference to the graph there is no doubt that the morbidity and mortality of the disease are declining quite rapidly, although slight fluctuations are found, and the morbidity in 1960 was a little higher than that in 1959.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

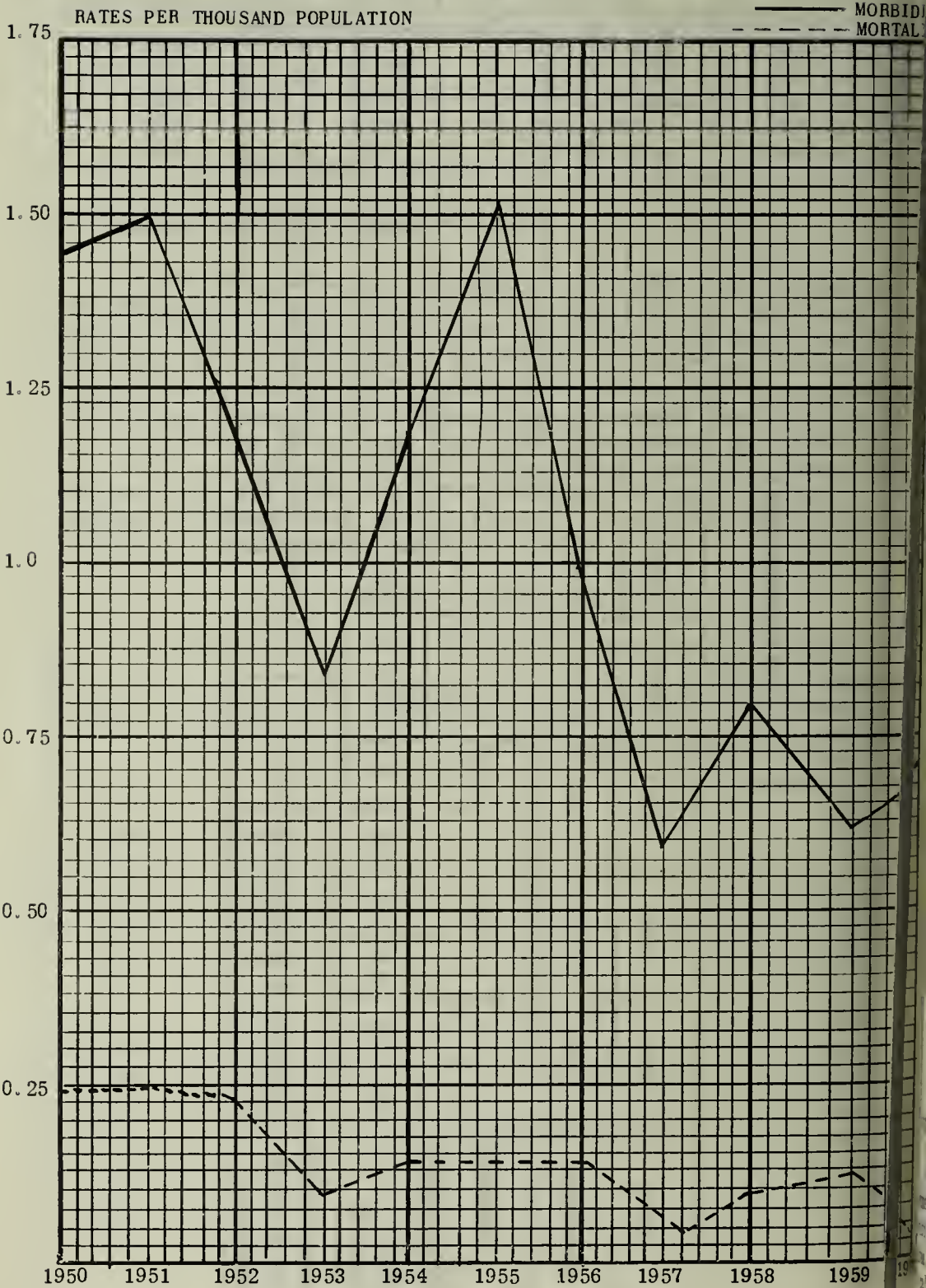
<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary Death Rate per 1000 population</i>
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
1950	66,340	10	3	1	2	0.19
1951	66,439	10	6	1	-	0.24
1952	66,730	11	3	1	1	0.21
1953	66,950	5	1	-	-	0.09
1954	67,090	5	2	-	2	0.13
1955	67,940	5	3	-	1	0.12
1956	69,190	7	1	1	-	0.12
1957	71,560	4	1	-	-	0.07
1958	73,620	4	-	1	1	0.05
1959	75,450	7	-	1	1	0.09
1960	77,410	2	1	-	1	0.04

TUBERCULOSIS

YEAR	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
POPULATION	66,430	66,730	66,950	67,090	67,940	69,190	71,560	73,620	75,450	77,410
P - PULMONARY N.P. - NON-PULMONARY	P	N.P.	P	N.P.	P	N.P.	P	N.P.	P	N.P.
	88	13	71	9	55	4	69	9	40	51
CASES NOTIFIED	1.32	0.19	1.06	0.13	0.82	0.06	1.03	0.13	0.16	0.16
NOTIFICATIONS PER 1,000 OF POPULATION	1.32	0.19	1.06	0.13	0.82	0.06	1.03	0.13	0.16	0.16

TUBERCULOSIS - 1950 - 1960

GRAPH SHOWING MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Alterations to the Child Welfare Centre programme had to be made during the year because of additional demands made by the rapidly increasing population.

The following table shows the location of the various Welfare Centres for infants and toddlers in and around Slough.

	<i>Mondays</i>	<i>Tuesdays</i>	<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>Fridays</i>
Weekly	Health Centre, Burlington Rd., St. Michael's Community Centre, Farnham Road.	Langley Elmhurst Road.	Langley - 173, Trelawney Avenue. Burnham	Farnham Royal Health Centre Burlington Road. Lent Rise	Cippenham Wexham Court 1, Went- worth Ave.
Twice Monthly	Farnham Common	Stoke Poges Colnbrook	Datchet		

In February a purpose built Centre on the Wexham Court Estate was opened by Alderman A E. Ward, J P. C.A., Chairman of the County Health Committee in the presence of Councillor P. Davies, Chairman of Eton Rural District Council, and Councillor Mrs. D. Smallbone, Mayor of Slough. This Centre is in the grounds of the old peoples' hostel and was sited here so that the Hall of the Centre could be used either for Child Welfare or School Clinic purposes or for recreation for the elderly living in the hostel. The Centre has been very warmly welcomed not only by the mothers and children attending but also by the Voluntary Committee of the Child Welfare Centre who have continued to give very many years sterling service under very diverse conditions at the previous premises, and by members of the local health authority staff such as dentists, doctors, health visitors and speech therapist.

ANTE NATAL AND MOTHERCRAFT EDUCATION

There has been a steady increase during the year in the numbers attending both the Ante Natal Classes and the Mothers Club.

Six Ante-Natal Classes were held each week in the Borough for women expecting their first babies. The tuition was given by health visitors, district midwives, Regional Hospital Board Staff and the Area Health Education Organiser and held in premises supplied by the local health authority or Regional Hospital Board.

Eight evening Film shows, to which couples were invited after the wife had had Ante-Natal instruction, continued to attract enthusiastic audiences who showed their appreciation by many individual expressions of thanks. The film 'My First Baby' was introduced by the Medical Officer of Health. A total of 251 men accompanied by their wives attended these film shows.

The Mothers Club based on Burlington Road Health Centre has had a very successful year increasing its membership by 50%. It undertook a very varied health education programme for its members who all have a child under school leaving age. It had much social and educational contact with similar clubs in the South Bucks Area.

ANTE NATAL BLOOD TESTS

Blood tests for expectant mothers were continued with the co-operation of hospitals and family doctors, and the arrangement continued to function smoothly.

MARRIED WOMEN'S ADVISORY CLINIC

The following clinics are held locally:-

Upton Hospital, Albert Street	-- Mondays	6 - 7.30 p.m.
	Tuesdays	6 - 7.30 p.m.
	Wednesdays	11 a.m. 12.30 p.m.
Health Centre, Burlington Road	- Fridays	2.15 - 4 p.m.

The clinics are held as shown at the time of writing.

The number of weekly sessions held at the Health Centre was greater at the end of 1960 than it is at present but when new Ante-Natal premises were erected at Upton Hospital it was possible to move some of the sessions to the new building and thus alleviate considerable pressure upon the accommodation at the Health Centre.

DAY NURSERY

Children from 0 - 3 years are cared for daily at the Manor Day Nursery.

The Nursery is situated at:

Penn Road, Manor Park, Slough

Applications for admission should be made to the Area Medical Officer, 'Glenhartie', 15, Bath Road, Slough.

RESIDENTIAL NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S HOME

Residential accommodation for children needing care by the local authority is supplied by the Children's Department of the Bucks County Council at Brookside Residential Nursery, Salt Hill, Slough and at Manor Lodge, Mildenhall Road, Slough.

The former cares for children under five years of age while the latter looks after those who have already reached school age.

Accommodation is restricted and, although it is always hoped a place will be available for urgent cases, no guarantee that a child can be admitted to a particular nursery can be given.

Applications should be made to the Children's Officer, 18, Walton Street, Aylesbury.

Owing to extensive alterations to Brookside, the Staff and children were transferred to Larchmoor, Stoke Common, in the spring, and were still there at the end of the year.

V. HOSPITAL SERVICE

The Borough of Slough is served by the following hospitals and maternity homes, the majority of which are situated outside the Borough.

General Hospitals

Upton Hospital, Albert Street
King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow
Old Windsor Hospital, Old Windsor

The Ministry of Health has agreed that a new hospital shall be built for Slough & District at Wexham Park. The original house which was, until recently, used as the nurses Preliminary Training School has been demolished. The final arrangements for a project of such a size always seem to take a very long time to mature and even at the time of writing no contract has formally been placed by the Minister. I hope, however, that I shall be able to report upon commencement of the building of the new hospital in my report for 1961.

Infectious Diseases

Maidenhead Isolation Hospital
St. John's Hospital, Uxbridge

Venereal Diseases

The nearest treatment centres are:

King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor
Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading
Hillingdon Hospital, Hillingdon

Tuberculosis

- (i) *Chest Clinic*. The Chest Clinic is at Upton Hospital, Albert Street, Slough. All arrangements are made by the Chest Physician, who is available at the Hospital. (Tel. No. SLOUGH 23261)
- (ii) *Hospital Treatment for Chest Diseases*. All admissions are arranged by the Chest Physician, Chest Clinic, Upton Hospital, Slough.

Maternity Accommodation

Upton Hospital, Albert Street. Slough
Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Taplow
Colinswood Maternity Home, Farnham Common
Old Windsor Hospital, Old Windsor
Princess Christian Maternity Home, Windsor

If the patient's own doctor thinks that admission should be made on medical grounds, the patient is referred to the nearest ante-natal clinic, but if admission is sought on domiciliary or social grounds, application is made through the Area Medical Officer who makes his recommendations to the Hospital Management Committee following a report on home circumstances made by a Health Visitor

Part III Accommodation

Aged Persons	Sick	Upton Hospital
	Non-sick	Upton Towers
		Upton Hospital
		Wexham Court Hostel

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
(Leslie A. Stroud, D.P.A., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.)

for the year 1960

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Section A - General Administration
Section B - Housing
Section C - Safeguarding of Food Supplies
Section D - Clean Air
Section E - Factories, Workplaces and Shops
Section F - Pest Infestation Control
Section G - Miscellaneous

SECTION A

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

TABLE NO. 1

Summary:

Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,766
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,180
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	320
Secondary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Letters received	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,960
Letters despatched	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,371
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,567

TABLE NO. 2

Analysis of Inspection Work performed by the District Public Health Inspectors:

Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,011
Inspection of Meat and Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	...	894
Premises at which Food is prepared, stored or sold	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,626
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	565
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,013
General Sanitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,135
Pest Infestation Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(including visits by the Pest Control Officer)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,539
Miscellaneous Matters	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,393

TABLE NO. 3

Premises at which Improvements were effected:

Dwelling houses (rendered habitable)	...	...	...
Premises used for Preparation and Sale of Food	...		
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...
Shops	...	...	...
Drainage (reconstruction, repair etc.)	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	...	...	...

S E C T I O N B**HOUSING**

In a recent report of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government it is stated that there are some fourteen and one-third million houses and flats in England and Wales, and of these three one quarter million (or nearly 23%) have been built in the fifteen years since the end of the war. In addition some 400,000 older houses have been modernised.

Judged by any standard this rate of progress would appear to be satisfactory, and has greatly improved the overall housing position, yet the population continues to increase and the demand for housing accommodation is apparently insatiable.

It will be recalled that the Council's five-year programme of slum clearance areas was completed well on target, by the end of 1959.

In his circular No. 2/60 the Minister of Housing and Local Government suggested that local authorities should take stock of the progress of slum clearance. Following a survey of the remaining unsuitable houses within the Borough, I recommended in July 1960 that a further programme should be implemented in respect of some 207 houses to be cleared by way of clearance areas, demolition orders and closing down. The Slough Borough Council in adopting this recommendation decided in view of the difficulty of providing alternative accommodation, that the implementation of the programme be deferred for twelve months, to operate for five years from the autumn of 1961.

During the year four individual dwelling houses were represented as unfit.

Improvement Grants

Improvement grants have operated to good effect for over a decade. The House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 recognises that a house with a fixed bath, an indoor water closet and a hot water supply adds something to the credit side of the national health ledger.

In a recent speech on the subject of improvement grants, the Minister of Housing and Local Government is quoted as saying 'we still have upwards of 600,000 houses in England and Wales that ought to be pulled down as quickly as possible and for every slum dwelling there are five which are old and out of date, but sound'.

During 1960, 59 applications for standard grants were received, 58 being approved and one being refused because the property was likely to be affected by redevelopment proposals within fifteen years. One of the statutory requirements is that before approving a grant the local authority must be satisfied that after the execution of works, the dwelling will be fit for human habitation and likely to remain in that condition and available for use as a dwelling for not less than fifteen years.

It was anticipated that many more applications would have been received, but the reason for the lack of increased numbers has not been discovered, although it has been found that there are still many people who have no knowledge of the existence of improvement grants despite extensive publicity since their inception. Quite a number of applicants have only discovered the existence of improvement grants recently, some only by virtue of a neighbour having successfully applied. During the year five applications for discretionary grants were received, of which three were approved. The two which were refused related to the enlarging of existing kitchens in houses which otherwise were provided with modern amenities such as baths, etc.; the applications being refused following advice received from the Ministry.

Two hundred and twenty-two visits were made during the year to dwelling houses following applications for grants, for the purpose of initial inspection and advice to the applicant. Although one of the reasons for the institution of Standard Grants was to simplify the procedure, a surprising number of people failed to understand the simple requirements, for example the need to submit plans for approval under the Building Byelaws, and the need to ensure that when the work is completed only approved expenditure can be allowed for grant purposes. Any other work though carried out at the same time, but having no direct relationship to the provision of the standard amenities cannot rank for grant.

Home Repair and Maintenance of Dwelling Houses

One of the more important functions of environmental health inspection is to ensure a satisfactory standard of fitness of dwelling houses. Because of the ever-increasing scope and consequent widening of duties it has for many years been quite impossible to maintain a regular system of routine housing inspection.

During the year some 160 complaints from tenants regarding the disrepair of their dwellings were made to the Department.

The District Public Health Inspectors made 2,457 visits to 1,271 houses for the purpose of initial inspection, and subsequent re-inspection in securing compliance with notices served and supervising building works in progress.

In connection with this work under the Housing and Public Acts, 14 statutory, 360 preliminary, written and verbal notices, 41 Requisition for Information notices as to ownership of premises were served during 1960.

The re-conditioning of houses with which the Department was concerned during the year may be summarised as follows:-

Houses externally repaired	...	...	91
" internally repaired	...	....	92
" dampness remedied	...	...	54
" internally decorated	...	...	32

Once again it proved to be unnecessary for the Council to carry out works of repair in default of owners.

Overcrowding

As I have reported for many years the extent of overcrowding in the Borough is an unknown quantity since without a specific and detailed survey of the whole town such information is not forthcoming.

Overcrowding standards, now a quarter of a century old, are based on the number and size of habitable rooms in a dwelling house. They are clearly out of date and of little value.

Several instances of alleged overcrowding came to the notice of the Department during the year by way of complaint or otherwise. On investigation little statutory overcrowding was found, and following informal action, warning letters etc. such contraventions ceased immediately. It was found to be unnecessary to institute legal proceedings.

In connection with overcrowding, your officers made 56 visits for inspection.

Council Housing Estates

(a) Allocation of Council Houses

In order to enable me to award points to applicants under the Council's Housing Points Scheme, 83 visits were made by the District Public Health Inspectors to ascertain the existence of insanitary or sub-standard conditions in housing accommodation occupied by applicants.

(b) *Council Housing Estates*

Close liaison is maintained with the Housing Department on various aspects and numerous visits of inspection of houses on Corporation Estates were made in connection with rodent control, vermin etc.

Caravans

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, came into operation during the year. A most useful point is included by Section 22 of the Act, which requires that a local planning authority before granting permission for the use of land as a caravan site shall consult the local authority who have the power to issue a site licence.

This Act, which has been called the 'Caravanners Charter', introduces a new licensing system and confers on local authorities and planning authorities effective powers for controlling caravan sites.

It is interesting to note that 'Caravan' has now replaced the term 'movable dwelling'. The Act makes no provision for the gipsy or itinerant dealer caravanner, but deals with the permanent residential site and the holiday site.

Whatever we say about the sub-standard nature of the caravan as a dwelling, it must be accepted as a way of life, which for many reasons, has come to stay, and consequently the aim of the new Act is to improve site amenities by requiring higher standards.

The survey of residential caravan life carried out for Sir Barton Wilson's working party by the Social Survey Division of the Central Office of Information revealed that 21 per cent of all persons interviewed did not want houses. The principal reasons given included independence, economy, mobility, etc. It must, however, be readily admitted that in the main, occupiers of residential caravans look forward to the day when they can occupy a house or flat. In the meantime they are solving their housing problem economically, obtaining reasonable privacy and apparently doing so without ill effect.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has issued Model standards of conditions to be attached to Site Licences. They are intended as a guide to local authorities with respect to lay-out, provision of facilities, services and equipment on Caravan Sites.

The occupier of land becomes the site operator, and he holds the Site Licence and not the individual occupying the caravan.

By the end of 1960 the Council had received thirteen applications for Site Licences, as follows:-

9 in respect of single caravans			
1	9 9	2	9 9
1	9 9	4	9 9
1	9 9	10	9 9
1	9 9	80	9 9

These were dealt with by consultation between the Health and Sanitation Committee and the Planning and Redevelopment Committee and their appropriate officers.

Throughout the year there were over 100 occupied caravans within the Borough. Some were exempted from licences e.g. building sites, agricultural workers etc.

Some 1,117 visits of inspection were made by your officers during 1960 in relation to caravans.

Rent Act, 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

The number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair was again considerably reduced during 1960. This was inevitable as the majority of tenants applied soon after the original notices of rent increase occurred shortly after the Act came into operation.

The following is a summary of the action taken during 1960 regarding Certificates of Disrepair:-

Applications for Certificates	...	...	6
Certificates granted	...	...	2
Landlord's Undertakings accepted	...	...	3
Landlord's Applications for cancellation	...	...	4
Certificates cancelled	...	...	3

All such transactions under the Rent Act are matters strictly between landlord and tenant, the Council acting merely in an administrative capacity. Furthermore, these negotiations are unrelated to the Council's powers exercised under the Housing and Public Health Acts dealing with repair of dwelling house property.

Information re Local Land Charges etc.

Information as to statutory orders made in respect of dwelling houses and non-complied-with notices requiring works of disrepair was supplied in respect of 1,787 properties upon a request for a search of the Land Charges Register.

In addition, particulars as to properties were supplied in cases in which mortgages were being arranged under the Housing Act in respect of the purchase of small dwellings. A number of requests for information were dealt with during the year, as to whether properties changing hands were included in the Borough Council's Programme of Housing Clearance.

S E C T I O N C

SAFEGUARDING OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Of the many duties with which the Department is charged, and indeed equipped to deal, the safeguarding of food supplies is one of paramount importance. Continual vigilance is necessary in the form of inspection and re-inspection to ensure that satisfactory standards are maintained.

The report on the Department's activities during the year is under three main headings: The hygiene of preparation, handling and display; inspection for fitness, and compositional standards.

Food Hygiene

During 1960 some 1854 visits of inspection were made to all food premises within the Borough, including food factories, catering establishments, factory and school canteens, bakeries, dairies, ice-cream manufacturing premises, markets, licensed premises, meat, fish, grocery and other retail shops.

School kitchens and canteens in County Council and private schools were the subject of regular inspection throughout the year, and considerable improvement in the general standards of these premises was achieved.

Food hygiene still presents the major problem in the matter of securing correct methods of handling food. Premises and equipment require attention, but the increase in the use of plastics, stainless steel, glazed tiles and other easy-to clean materials in food premises makes the education of food handlers the most important function of our officers. The Public Health Inspector frequently finds that a routine inspection of food premises involves a miniature food hygiene lecture to the staff, for during their visits to food premises they touch closely the methods and habits of food handlers and point out to the management any unhygienic practices observed.

Discriminating customers could do more to help in the field of food hygiene if they complained when things go wrong, and objected when they see dirty utensils or bad personal habits. It is always more satisfying to visit food premises which are equipped with simple materials, and sensible staff whose nails, hands and overalls are clean, than to find disinterested staff surrounded by stainless steel and laminated plastics in profusion, where the expensive wash-hand basins are dusty for want of use.

Milk Supply

A register of Dairies and Distributors of Milk (other than dairy farms and farmers) is maintained in the department.

Licences were granted in pursuance of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) and (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations 1949, as follows:-

Pasteuriser's Licences	...	...	...	...	2
Dealer's Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences	...	...	...	...	30
Dealer's Pasteurised Milk Licences	...	...	...	...	37
Dealer's Sterilized Milk Licences	...	...	...	...	50

All milk sold within the Borough must be heat-treated (either pasteurised or sterilised) or tuberculin tested, and this includes milk sold from automatic vending machines. Although the Local Authority has no power to enforce periodic renewal of the milk in these machines, in the event of milk unfit for human consumption being sold, the matter could be dealt with under Section 8 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The granting of a licence to sell milk under a special designation places upon the vendor the responsibility of ensuring that at the time of sale the milk in question complies with the bacteriological standards required by the Milk (Special Designation) Orders.

The two dairies in the Borough receiving bulk milk continue to operate satisfactorily. Both are visited regularly and 95 samples of milk were taken by your officers and subjected to tests to determine efficient processing. During the year 142 visits were made to registered premises.

Both receiving dairies operate their own control laboratories which keep a constant check on the quality of the milk. Your officers have always received the fullest co-operation from the staff of these laboratories when the occasions for discussions have arisen.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

During 1960, 192 samples of milk of various designations were procured for bacteriological examination in the Department's laboratory. Only eight of these samples failed to pass the prescribed tests.

TABLE NO. 4

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

CLASSIFICATION	NO. OF SAMPLES
Pasteurised Milk	58
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised) Milk	87
Tuberculin-Tested Milk	42
Sterilised Milk	5

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice-Cream

Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, requires that all premises used for the sale, or the manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice cream, or the storage of ice-cream intended for sale shall be registered with the Local Authority.

In Slough during 1960 ten additional premises were registered for the sale of ice cream. During the year your officers made 124 visits to premises where ice-cream was manufactured and sold, and 66 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination in the Department's laboratory with the following results:-

TABLE NO., 5
METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST

PROVISIONAL GRADE	SAMPLES
1) satisfactory	65
2)	1
3) unsatisfactory	
4)	

Attention has been given during inspections to the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations in the case of manufacturers, and supervision has been maintained in the case of retailers, particularly itinerant vendors where the standard of hygiene was generally satisfactory.

Preparation and Manufacture of Preserved Foods

At the end of 1960, 57 premises in the Borough were registered in pursuance of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 in respect of the manufacture of preserved foods namely:-

Canning Factories	...	...	...	...	2
Preparation of Shell Fish	...	...	...	...	2
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	15
Manufacturers of Sausages and Cooked Meats					38

Regular routine inspections of these premises have been carried out, and generally the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations have been complied with.

Bakehouses

At the end of 1960, there were nine premises within the Borough registered as bakehouses and 24 inspections were made of these premises during the year, when conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Foreign Matter in Food

During 1960 several complaints were received from members of the public alleging contamination of food, but proceedings were instituted in only three cases. Some of the complaints were of a trivial nature, some more serious, but in every case the co-operation of the public was welcomed because it enabled a thorough investigation to be carried out into contamination which would otherwise pass unnoticed.

The complaints received mostly concerned the presence of foreign matter in foodstuffs detected by the purchaser at home and often whilst in the process of preparing or eating the offending article. Tact is required when dealing with an irate purchaser who may have come 'hot foot' to the office from his dining table, and the detection work entailed in preventing a recurrence of such contamination means considerable consultation with manufacturers and their representatives, when everyone concerned is most anxious to find where in the long chain of events from raw material to finished product the foreign body entered. The main object in each case is to detect the fault as soon as possible in order to prevent a recurrence.

Municipal Abattoir

In January 1960, it was reported that all the legislation in effect to the Government's policy on slaughterhouses had been completed and that the Borough Council should proceed to consider the implications of this legislation both in relation to the needs of the Borough generally and to the suitability of facilities at their Municipal Abattoir.

Under Section 3 (1) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, Local Authorities were required to review, and after consultation with other organisations as appeared to the authority to represent the interests concerned, to report to the Minister on

- (a) the existing and probable future requirements of their district for slaughtering facilities, having regard to the needs both of persons requiring the use of such facilities and of other persons.
- (b) the slaughterhouse facilities which are or are likely to become available to meet those requirements.

In conjunction with the report it was necessary to declare whether the existing building complied with Construction Regulations, namely The Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

Upon investigation of this matter the following points became clear:

- (a) The premises did not comply with the Construction Regulations.
- (b) To improve and extend them would necessitate acquiring adjoining land.
- (c) Having regard to the character and conditions of the premises it was not a good proposition to improve them.
- (d) The Planning aspect having regard to the frontage line and means of access made such a proposal impracticable.
- (e) Upon enquiry it was found that the owners of the Abattoir premises and adjoining land were unwilling to sell to the Borough Council the existing abattoir premises, or to sell or lease to them adjoining ground for extension.

Having regard to the obvious need for improved Abattoir facilities for the district, it was considered that the erection of a new Abattoir was the only solution to the problem. The most suitable location for this purpose was considered to be a piece of land adjoining the existing Abattoir, and negotiations were commenced.

These negotiations culminated in a local enquiry into the proposed development of this site, but in May, 1961, the Minister gave his decision which rejected the Council's proposals.

Slaughtering of food animals has continued at the existing abattoir, under full time supervision of your officers, who have carried out inspection of all animals slaughtered and generally controlled the running of the premises.

Early morning visits to the premises have been made for the purpose of examining various vehicles used for the transportation of meat from the Abattoir, and it was found necessary in some cases to request improvements to be made. Public Health Inspectors, during their tour of duty at the Abattoir, constantly watch the habits and methods of food handlers, and through pointing out undesirable practices and explaining the dangers that might arise, a general improvement has been obtained, particularly with regard to the wearing of protective clothing.

The Abattoir facilities are available from Monday morning to Saturday noon inclusive. Slaughtering on Saturday afternoon and Sunday is not permitted excepting on rare occasions, such as the Sunday prior to Christmas.

The premises are opened at 7 a.m. and close as required up until 8 p.m. according to seasonal demands. An Inspector is on daily duty until the Abattoir is closed.

In 1960 20,026 animals were slaughtered, as follows:-

Cattle	...	...	3,764
Sheep	...	...	6,898
Pigs	...	...	8,281
Calves	...	...	1,083

During the financial year ending 31st March, 1961, tolls for use of the Abattoir amounted to £2,996.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

In pursuance of the above Act, the Borough Council renewed licences to eight persons engaged in the slaughtering of food animals.

Electrical stunning apparatus was used at the Municipal Abattoir for small animals together with the captive bolt type instrument for the stunning of larger animals. Both methods are humane and efficient and no cruelty occurred. No contraventions of the Act were observed.

The duties of the slaughtermen are hard and in many ways unpleasant, but I am pleased to report that they perform their work in an efficient and skilful manner, and it is interesting to note that the observations on the condition of dressed carcasses at the Abattoir, made by wholesale and retail butchers, confirm that the standard of butchering is very high.

The Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

One hundred per cent inspection of all carcasses and offals of animals slaughtered at the Municipal Abattoir was achieved by the District Public Health Inspectors, all of whom possess the Certificate of the Royal Society of Health for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Table No. 6 gives particulars of carcasses examined and rejected as unfit for human consumption. After examination, each carcass, passed as fit for human consumption, is marked with the Inspector's stamp in accordance with the meat marking scheme. Particular attention was paid to the general handling and dressing of carcasses to prevent the possibility of contamination before despatch from the Abattoir. From time to time it was necessary to examine some carcasses and offals which had arrived from outside the Borough to retail butchers and to a meat depot on the Trading Estate.

Two hundred and fifty visits were made during 1960 to wholesale and retail food premises for the purpose of examining other food. As a result of these visits some three tons of food, considered by your Officers to be unfit for human consumption, was voluntarily surrendered to the Corporation and was destroyed.

The details are as follows:-

					Wt. in lbs.
Canned Foods	...	...	...	...	5,354
Bacon	...	...	...	...	108
Imported Meat	...	...	...	...	39
Manufactured Meat Products	...	...	...	...	28
Cheese and Butter	...	...	...	...	75
Preserves	...	...	...	...	55
Fish	...	...	...	...	77
Meat	...	...	...	...	120
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	841

Disposal of Unsound Food

Carcases and offal rejected as unfit for human consumption are disposed of by two methods:-

- (a) Since some of this material is capable of being sterilized and processed into animal feeding stuffs and fertilizers, permission has been given to the Slaughtering Contractor to sell to approved collectors, on behalf of the owners, such rejected meat as the Inspecting Officer considers suitable for such use.
- (b) Rejected carcases and offal not considered suitable for processing are destroyed.

All rejected meat is removed from the hanging room, as soon as possible after examination, and is placed in a separate store kept exclusively for this purpose. It is retained for a limited period in order that the owner or his representative may examine the material considered by the Inspector to be unfit. Experience has shown that some owners are quite prepared to accept the Inspecting Officer's judgment without question, whilst others are eager to examine their property and to discuss the reasons why rejection has been found necessary. This facility is offered to owners because even rejected meat remains their property and unless this meat is voluntarily surrendered to the Local Authority it could be removed from the premises by the owners, and action for its seizure would then become necessary under the Food and Drugs Act. Such action has not been necessary at any time since the Corporation have been controlling the Abattoir, but the Inspecting Officers have found it necessary, when dealing with some owners, to explain the full implications of removing unfit meat from the premises.

Other foods referred to under previous headings are collected by van and disposed of by tipping.

Table No. 7 shows the weights of rejected meat dealt with in 1960. The total amount represents less than 1% by weight of meat inspected.

Hygiene of Meat Transport

The handling of meat in transit to wholesale and retail butchery premises from the Municipal Abattoir and from outside the Borough is the subject of regular observation by the District Public Health Inspectors. This has included a number of early morning visits to the Abattoir to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. It has been found necessary to issue warnings in a limited number of cases where the standards of cleanliness both in regard to vehicles and protective clothing were not considered suitable. These warnings have proved effective and statutory action was required during the year.

Food Hawkers

The registration of hawkers of certain classes of food has been compulsory since 1959 when the Borough Council implemented Section 115 of the Slough Corporation Act, 1949. This provided for the compulsory registration of all hawkers of food and their premises. This is designed to give greater control over the hygiene of food sold from vehicles, and both vehicles and storage premises used by these traders are regularly inspected by the Public Health Inspectors to ensure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Food and Drugs Compositional Standard and Quality

It will be seen from tables 8 and 9 that 636 samples of food and drugs were procured during 1960. Two hundred and nine of these samples (171 formal and 38 informal) were submitted to the Public Analyst. The procedure in formal sampling is that the majority of foods are purchased in retail shops by the Sampling Officers in the same way as ordinary purchasers, each sample is divided into three and each portion sealed, labelled and numbered. One portion is sent to the Public Analyst, one portion is given to the vendor, and the third portion of each sample is retained by the Sampling Officer for production, if necessary, during any subsequent legal proceedings which may arise.

Purchases are made at random, but with special attention being given to certain types of food which are particularly liable to adulteration e.g. spirits, milk, coffee and articles of food the price of which is such that a considerable increase in profit could be expected following adulteration.

The 427 samples which were procured, but not submitted to the Public Analyst, were informal samples of milk, ice-cream and spirits, such samples being tested in the department's laboratory or by the Sampling Officers.

Milk

Most of the samples of milk were taken at the two dairies situated within the Borough. Three hundred and fifty-four informal samples of milk were taken during the year and whenever the presence of added water was suspected a check sample was submitted to the Public Analyst. The majority of samples were taken from churns of milk on delivery at the dairies. Each churn of the consignment was sampled individually in order that the addition of water to any particular churn could be detected more easily than would be the case if a composite sample was taken of the whole consignment. During the year prosecutions were instituted successfully against two farmers in respect of milk containing added water; in the case of the farmer it was his second conviction in the same court within fifteen months.

The average composition of all samples of milk taken during the year was:

Channel Islands Milk	4.6% fat	9.2% solids not fat
Other Milk	3.6% fat	8.7% solids not fat

Ice-Cream

Sixty-three informal samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and examined in the department's laboratory. All of these samples contained more than the minimum of 5% fat laid down by regulations.

Spirits

Thirty-four informal samples of spirits were taken during the year, all except one being satisfactory. In the case of the one unsatisfactory sample, three formal samples were subsequently purchased, each of these formal samples being submitted to the Public Analyst and each being found to contain added water, resulting in a successful prosecution of the vendor.

Local Food Factories

As in previous years visits were paid to local factories where food is manufactured, and samples of the various products sent to the Public Analyst. In one case the manufacturer was advised regarding a misleading description and in another case the manufacturer was advised regarding the physical condition of the product.

Preservatives and Colouring Matter

Substances used in food as preservatives or colouring matter are strictly regulated as to the type of chemical and the type of food in which it is permitted. The quantities of preservatives are also governed in the various foods. No food intended for human consumption is allowed to contain any other than permitted colouring matters and certain foods such as raw and unprocessed meat or fish are not allowed to contain any added colouring matter whatsoever. The Public Analyst examines foods sent to him for detecting the presence of prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

Labelling and Advertising

The requirements regarding labelling and advertising foodstuffs are closely governed by legislation and with the increasing use of pre-packed foods there is a growing need for close supervision to prevent and detect false statements and claims which might mislead purchasers. There are many Food Standards and Codes of Practice to control ingredients in a wide range of foodstuffs, but although the Codes of Practice were agreed between the Ministry and the Trade they have no statutory force. When pre-packed foods are sampled for submission to the Public Analyst a check is made that the contents in fact agree with the stated list of ingredients.

Pharmacy and Medicines Acts

Certain sections of these Acts can be enforced by Food and Drugs Authorities and relate to the prohibition of advertisements relating to certain diseases and the disclosure of composition of medicines. No contraventions of the Act were discovered.

Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 and 1953

It is open to the Food and Drugs Authority to enforce this Act although they are not under any duty to do so. The Act in general relates to offences in the false application of trade descriptions and there are many Imported Goods Orders which require certain imported commodities to be marked with the country of origin. During the routine inspections of shops a watch is kept to ensure that the Orders are being complied with.

TABLE NO. 6
SLOUGH MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR

Summary of Carcasses Inspected and Condenned					
	CATTLE EX. COWS	COWS	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	CALVES
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected	2,683	1,081	6,898	8,281	1,083
Disease except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	3	3	16	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	621	366	77	471	5
% of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	23.1	34.1	1.4	5.9	1.1
Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	16	10	-	272	-
% of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.6	1	-	3.3	-
Cysticercosis Bovis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	37	8	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	8	-	-	-	-
Generalized condition whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE NO. 7

Weights of Condemed Meat						
	TUBERCULOSIS			OTHER DISEASES		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcases,	-	3	-	43	2	11
Parts of Carcasses and Organs	29	1	26	140	2	4
TOTALS ...	30	0	26	184	0	15
TOTAL WEIGHT: 10 tons 14 cwts. 1 qr. 13 lbs.						

TABLE NO. 8

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst								
					PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
					Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
FOODS:								
Almonds, ground	...	...	...		4			
Apple Tart	...	...	...			1		1
Apple Turnover	...	...	...			2		2
Battermix	...	...	...		1			
Beans	...	...	...		2			
Beef, corned with cereal	...				1			
Beef suet	...	...	...		1			
Biscuits	...	...	...		4			
Bread crumbs	...	...	...		1			
Butter	...	...	...		2			
Cake Decorations		...	...		1			
Cake, queen	...	...	...		1			
Casserole, Beef and Vegetable					1			
Cheese	...	...	...		4		1	
Cherries, glaze	...	...	...		1			
Chicken	...	...	...		3			
Chutney, tomato	...	...	...		1			
Coffee	...	...	...		5			
Coffee and Chicory Essence	...				1			
Cooking fat	...	...	...		1	2		
Cooking liquid	...	...	...			1		
Cream	...	...	...		2			
Custard Powder	...	...	...		2			
Fish	...	...	...		3			
Fish Cakes	...	...	...		1			
Flour	...	...	...		2			
Fruit, dried	...	...	...		3			
Fruit, juices	...	...	...		2			
Fruit, tinned	...	...	...		2	3		
Gelatin	...	...	...		1			
Ham	...	...	...		1			
Horseradish	...	...	...		1			
Ice-cream	...	...	...		1	1		
Ice-lollies	...	...	...		3			
Jelly	...	...	...		2			
Lard	...	...	...		1	1		1
Liqueur	...	...	...			1		

TABLE NO. 8 (cont' d)

Summary of Food and Drugs Samples Submitted to the Public Analyst					PROCURED		ADULTERATED	
					Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk					48	10	13	10
Milk, condensed					2			1
Mushrooms					1			
Onions, cocktail					1			
Pancakes, scotch					1			
Paste, fish and meat					3			
Peas					1	1		
Pepper, white					1	1		
Pork, stuffed					2			
Pork, roast					1			
Preserves					6	1		1
Ravioli, with tomato sauce					1			
Rice					2			
Roe, fish					2			
Salad Dressing					2			
Sauce					1			
Sausages and Sausage Meat					4	1		1
Soft drinks					5	6		
Soup					2			
Spirits					3		3	
Sugar						2		
Sugar Confectionery					3	4		
Sultana Pudding					1			
Tapioca					1			
Tea, instant					1			
Vinegar					5		1	
DRUGS:								
Boracic Powder					1			
Bicarbonate of Soda					1			
Charcoal Powder					1			
Dyspepsia Tablets					1			
Influenza and Cold Mixture					1			
Paraffin, liquid					1			
Rheumatic Tablets					1			
Spirits of Sal Volatile					1			
Zinc Starch and Boracic Powder					1			
TOTAL FOODS					162	38	18	17
TOTAL DRUGS					9	-	-	-
TOTAL FOOD AND DRUGS					171	38	18	17

TABLE NO. 9

Food and Drugs Samples reported to be not Genuine			
SAMPLE NO.	FOOD	ADULTERATION	ACTION TAKEN
68	Milk	Added water 5%	Further formal samples taken
69	Milk	Added water 8.8%	Further formal samples taken
70	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Further formal samples taken
72	Milk	Added water 3%)
73	Milk	Added water 4.3%)
75	Milk	Added water 5.0%	) Summary Proceedings
		Deficient in fat	) Defendant fined £50 and
76	Milk	Added water 3.7%	) £25. 11. 0d. costs
		Deficient in fat)
78	Milk	Added water 4.1%)
98	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
99	Acetic Acid	Sample stronger than described on label	Vendor warned
184	Milk	Added water 29.8%)
185	Milk	Added water 30.0%	) Manufacturer warned
186	Milk	Added water 29.8%)
191	Cream Cheese	Deficient in fat	Manufacturer withdrew stock and changed label
279	Milk	Deficient in fat and solids-not-fat	No added water. Further samples taken
280	Milk	Deficient in fat. Added water 6.6%	Further samples taken
288	Milk	Deficient in fat	Supply kept under observation
289	Milk	Deficient in fat	Supply kept under observation
293	Milk	Deficient in fat. Added water 2.8%)
298	Milk	Added water 9.0%	) Summary proceedings
286	Milk	Added water 1.1%	) Defendant fined £50 and
			) £32. 11. 0d. costs
262	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
263	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat	No added water. Supply kept under observation
387	Prepared Honey	Misleading description	Manufacturer advised
400	Non-Alcoholic Ginger Wine	Description is a contradiction in terms	Manufacturer advised
477	Apple Turnover	Mould growth and incipient fermentation	Defendants fined £25 and £7. 15. 0d. costs

TABLE NO.. 9 (cont'd)

Food and Drugs Samples reported to be not Genuine

SAMPLE NO.	FOOD	ADULTERATION	ACTION TAKEN
531	Booth's Gin	Added water	Defendants fined £50 and £7. 10. 0d. costs
532	Gordon's Gin	Added water	Not proceeded with
533	Haig's Whisky	Added water	Defendants fined £50 and £7. 10. 0d. costs
577	Apple Tart	Contaminated with particles of iron	Vendor warned
578	Lard	Refining process had changed physical condition	Manufacturer advised
579	Milk	Contained three large pieces of glass	Summary proceedings. Defendant fined £75 and £9. 17. 0d. costs
580	Apple Turnover	Contaminated by mould spores and hyphae	Summary proceedings. Defendant fined £50 and £9. 17. 0d. costs
592	Milk	Deficient in fat 15%	Supply kept under observation
635	Sausages	Contained piece of wire	Vendor warned on resolution of Borough Council

SECTION D

CLEAN AIR

Another year has passed since the coming into operation of the Clean Air Act 1956 and there are signs that the general public are becoming more interested in clean air. Government propaganda, newspaper articles, exhibitions, radio and television broadcasts together with increased advertising by the various fuel interests have directed the public's attention to the evils of atmospheric pollution and the many advantages of clean air. Industry especially realises that smoke is directly connected with waste and inefficiency and that higher efficiency means an economic saving.

Railways

The steam locomotive is rapidly becoming a rarity, especially on the local suburban lines. This has led to a marked reduction in the amount of smoke emission hitherto associated with the railways.

Industrial

Dark smoke is an outward sign of incomplete combustion and inefficiency. It is very largely caused by inefficient or obsolete boiler plant, inefficient boiler operators, or use of unsuitable fuel.

In Slough a number of factories have in recent years converted their boiler installations from coal to oil, and a number of new industrial and commercial boiler plants have been oil-fired. Provided the plant is properly maintained and operated these installations are generally an improvement as regards smoke emission, but the flue gases are still obnoxious, and unless the chimneys are of sufficient height they can give rise to a nuisance which is prejudicial to health.

Section 10 of the Clean Air Act gives local authorities power to control the height of industrial chimneys in so far as they can reject plans submitted in accordance with Building Byelaws, unless they are satisfied that the chimney height is sufficient to allow for reasonable disposal of the gases and grit etc., so as not to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.

In this connection a close liaison has been maintained with the Borough Engineer's Chief Building Inspector during the year.

THE TRAINING OF BOILER OPERATORS

Thirty years ago before instrumentation in the boiler house became widespread, and in the days when coal was plentiful and cheap and little thought was given to the evils of air pollution, it was said that an unskilled stoker on a hand-fired boiler could waste as much fuel as a skilled miner could produce. Today thousands of hand-fired boilers are still with us.

The productive capacity of many works depends on the ability of the boiler house personnel to do their job properly. The provision of heat at the right time and in the right place is essential, and faulty operation of the boiler plant lowers its efficiency.

The National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service introduced some years ago a course of training for boiler operators, including practical training in the boiler house together with spare time study. More than 5,000 men have now been trained under this scheme which merits the attention of employers and employees, many more of whom, equally could benefit from such training. In addition the Slough College of Further Education run a one year course in preparation for the Boiler Operator's Certificate of the City and Guilds Institute.

Nowadays, in a well-run factory the stoker or boiler operator should no longer be the "odd job man" but a skilled technician who not only operates the boiler plant skilfully efficiently and smokelessly but, in doing so, saves thousands of pounds worth of fuel a year. In my opinion all boiler operators should be properly trained and certificated.

Prior Approval

Under the Council's Scheme of "Prior Approval" in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956, fourteen applications were received and granted during the year in respect of fuel consuming plant within the Borough.

Since 1954 when the Council's Scheme of Prior Approval of Industrial Furnaces was introduced by the Slough Corporation Act 1949, some 42 cases had been dealt with up to the end of 1960.

Domestic

It is generally assumed that air pollution is caused mainly by industrial processes. This assumption is not correct, and it is rapidly becoming recognised that smoke from the raw coal fire in the dwelling house causes a bigger nuisance than smoke from an industrial plant.

Smoke Control Areas

The Slough Borough Council have resolved to use their powers under Section 11 of the Clean Air Act 1956, and create Smoke Control Areas throughout the Borough by means of approximately 37 areas during the next 8 to 10 years.

It was decided to make a start on an area situated on the eastern boundary of the town which will include a lot of new development. The Minister of Housing and Local Government has so far approved in principle four smoke control areas all of which are situated in Langley.

In October a Technical Assistant (Smoke Control) commenced duties in the Department. He is engaged on a detailed survey of dwellings situated in proposed smoke control areas in order to estimate the costs of any conversions and/or adaptations which may be necessary for the efficient burning of smokeless fuel.

By the end of 1960 the detailed survey of No. 1 Smoke Control Area was well on the way and nearing completion. It is hoped that subject to the Ministry approval this Smoke Control Order will come into operation on 1st December 1961.

So far the results of the survey have disclosed that the majority of people are in favour of clean air. One of the biggest objections which has been encountered is the reluctance of a number of householders to have provision made for the gas ignition of their fires. In order to ignite a fire efficiently and smokelessly gas ignition is essential, but provision is made under the Act for exemption to be given to houses where there is no gas supply. A form of electric firelighter has recently appeared on the market and provided its efficiency and safety are confirmed by the authorities it is hoped that this form of ignition will rank for grant. This type of ignition will probably be very popular in houses where there is no gas supply.

After the No. 1 Smoke Control Order has been confirmed it will no longer be necessary to apply to the Ministry for approval in principle in respect of future Smoke Control Areas.

Smokeless Fuels

It is interesting to note that as a result of the survey which is being carried out quite a fair proportion of householders are already burning smokeless fuel and are fully satisfied with the advantages of burning this type of fuel.

Measurement of Air Pollution

It will be recalled that various recording stations for the measurement of air pollution were set up in May 1959. These stations consisted of one smoke filter and volumetric sulphur dioxide apparatus set up at the office at 15, Bath Road, three British Standard Deposition Gauges and seven Lead Peroxide Instruments stationed at various schools and factories throughout the Borough.

The result of all the above instruments are forwarded each month to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for publication in their Bulletin.

The graphs on page 63 show the average smoke and sulphur dioxide concentration during each month of the year 1960. It will be observed from the graphs that a marked increase in air pollution occurs in September and October which coincides with the general lighting up of domestic fires. This rather emphasises the fact that domestic fires are largely responsible for air pollution.

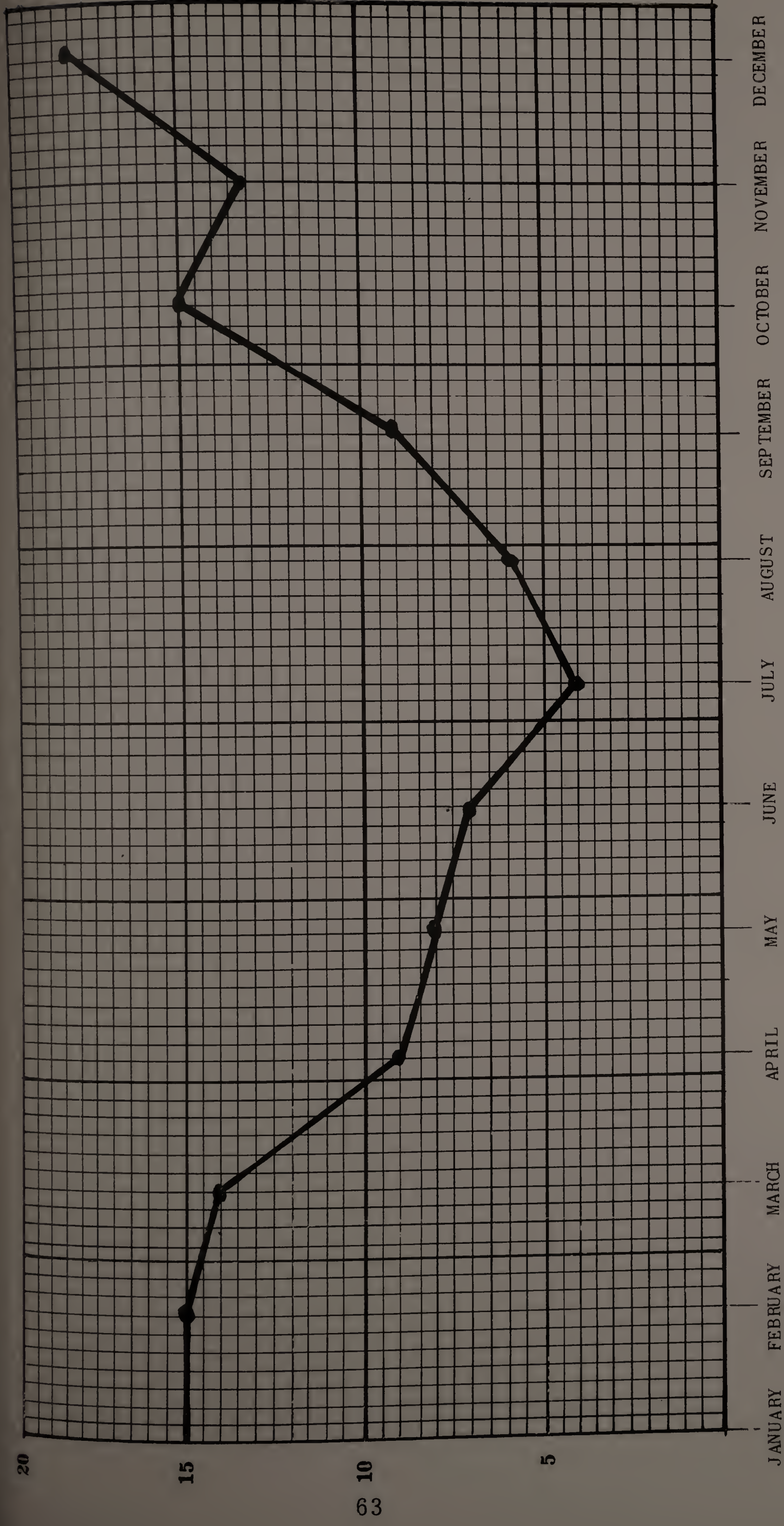
General

Your Chairman and I represent the Corporation on the National Society for Clean Air and the Home Counties Clean Air Advisory Committee. The Society's Annual Conference at Harrogate was attended by your Vice-Chairman and the technical officer who specialises in smoke control work.

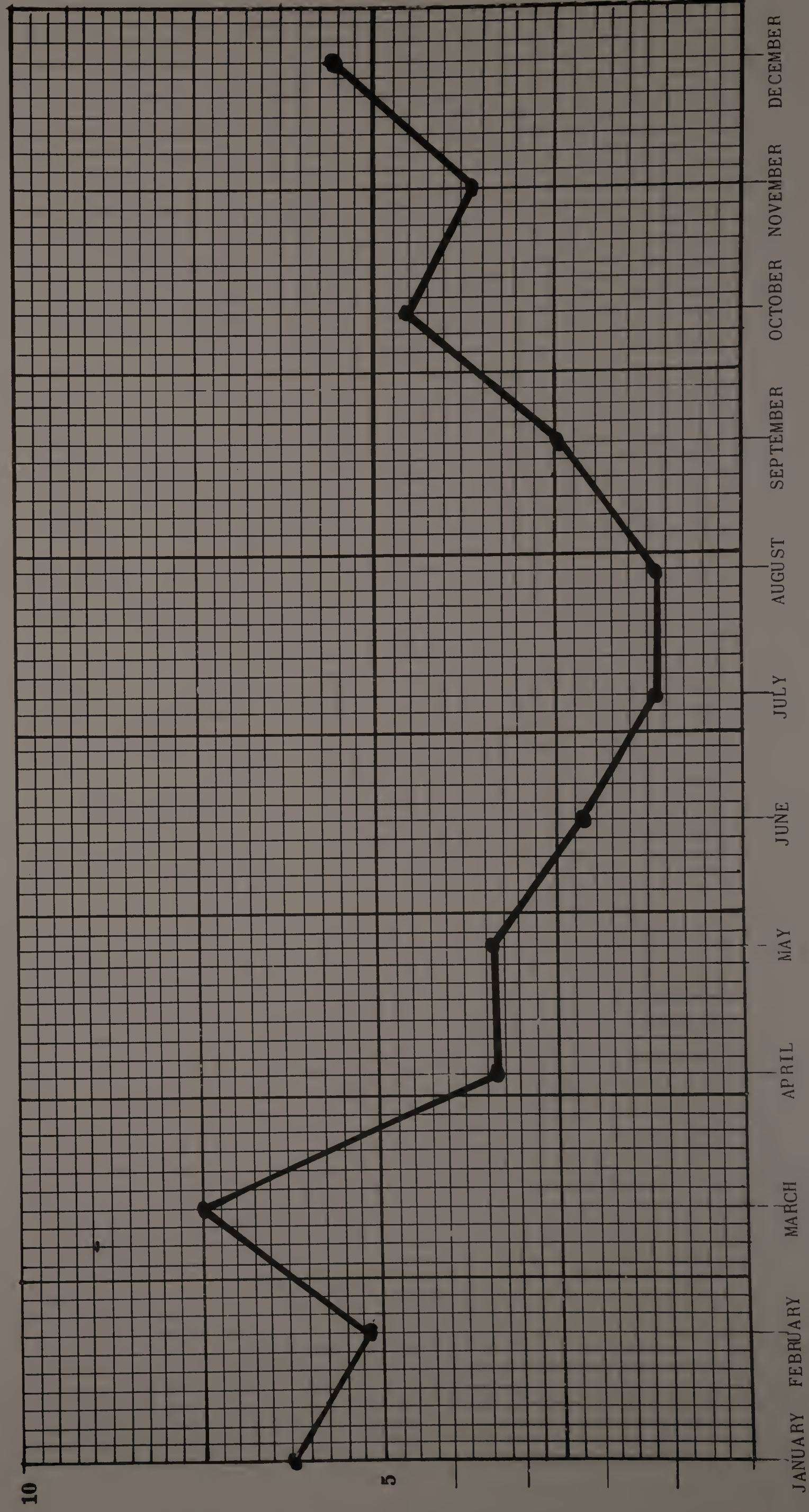
Ten complaints were received during the year regarding smoke and similar matters. One hundred and fifty-two smoke observations were made, and 412 visits paid in connection with boiler-house inspections, investigations and associated clean air matters. This year there has been a marked increase in the number of verbal enquiries and requests for advice in connection with smoke control. In order to assist the householders in proposed smoke control areas, a booklet is being sent to each house in that area so that persons concerned will be kept fully informed of their obligations and entitlement under the Act. Some 447 house to house visits were made in connection with the survey of heating appliances in houses within the first smoke control area.



AVERAGE SMO CONCENTRATION IN
M. gms/100 cub. metro



AVERAGE SULPHUR DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION IN
PARTS PER 100 MILLION





SECTION E

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS

Factories

Slough is a 'mixed' type of town possessing both residential and industrial areas. At the end of 1960 there were 609 factories on the Corporation's register, which include both large establishments and premises at which only a few persons are employed. All but 34 of these are factories where mechanical power is used and are the concern of the local authority only in respect of the adequacy, arrangement and maintenance of the sanitary accommodation. For all other purposes they are controlled by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

In the case of 'non power' factories the Council is the enforcing authority under the Factories Act, 1937, in respect of cleanliness, over crowding, temperature and ventilation in addition to sanitary accommodation.

There is close liaison between the Department and the H.M. Inspector of Factories. The requirements of the Factories Act relating to means of escape in case of fire were dealt with by the Borough Engineer.

Tables 10 and 11 give statistical information required each year by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

More than half these factories are situated on the Slough Trading Estate, and 1960 has seen the completion of a survey of the entire estate. In the case of factories which had fallen short of the requirements of the Factories Act, 1937, and Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938, made thereunder, works have been carried out either by Slough Estates or by the individual factories concerned to comply with these Regulations.

A small number of these factories are also food premises within the meaning of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, and are therefore inspected in connection with the requirements of this Act and Regulations. A survey of factory canteens has also been carried out and I am pleased to be able to report that they all comply with the Regulations.

Plans deposited with the Borough Engineer for approval under Planning and Building Byelaws were examined by my Deputy in order to check upon and consider proposals concerning the various aspects of the Department's activities.

From time to time both 'public health' and 'noise' nuisances are the subjects of investigation. Similarly investigations are carried out following offences under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

TABLE NO. 10

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES				
PREMISES	NUMBER ON REGISTER	NUMBER OF		
		INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
1 Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	34	48	2	Nil
2 Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	560	517	46	Nil
3 Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	15	19	1	Nil
TOTAL	609	584	49	Nil

TABLE NO. 11

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED AT FACTORIES					
PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND				NO. OF CASES IN WHICH PROSECUTION WERE INSTITUTE
	FND	REMEDIED	REFERRED		
			TO H.M. INSPECTOR	BY H.M. INSPECTOR	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	-	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	1	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	1	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) insufficient	2	3	-	2	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	54	49	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Out-workers)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	57	53	1	3	-

Outworkers

The usual lists of persons engaged in their houses in carrying out work for factories were returned during February and August and showed that 66 outworkers were employed at premises within the borough in specified occupations, principally relating to the making and altering of wearing apparel. The homes of these outworkers were regularly visited by the District Public Health Inspectors and were found to be satisfactory.

Lists in respect of 82 outworkers were forwarded to other local authorities and lists were received from local authorities in respect of 23 outworkers in Slough.

Drinking Water

One certificate of approval of drinking water supply was granted in pursuance of Section 4 of the Factories Act, 1937, in respect of a factory supplied from a deep well.

Shops Act, 1950, and Young Persons Employment Act, 1938

The provisions of these Acts were found to be well observed. The following inspections were made and improvements effected:-

(a) *Inspections:*

Arrangements for the health and comfort	
of shop workers	316
Conditions of employment	82
Hours of employment of young persons ...	45
Hours of closing	407
Sunday Trading	163

(b) *Improvements effected at Shops:*

Improved sanitary accommodation	7
Improved washing facilities	6
Notices displayed	15
Other contraventions remedied	1

The Shops Act, 1950, was simply a consolidating measure re-enacting, with other Acts, the Shops Act of 1934. Since the abortive attempt to bring the Shops Bill of 1956 on to the statute book, there has been no further action taken to bring about a revision of shops legislation, which is very desirable in view of the present confusing and indeed unenforceable legislation.

Workplaces

Certain premises which are neither registered factories nor shops are termed workplaces. In the main they are one-man workshop but they are subject to inspection for general purposes: i.e., sanitary accommodation, ventilation, cleanliness and overcrowding accordance with sections 46 and 92 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There were 29 visits made by your officers to such workplace during the year.

Places of Entertainment

Seven visits of inspection were made during the year to places of entertainment. In the main, conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Offices

It is understood that a Bill will soon be introduced dealing with health, safety and welfare, in shops, offices and other non-industrial premises before the Offices Act, 1960, comes into force on 1st January, 1962. Such an act, long overdue, is urgently needed to deal with sub-standard office accommodation for several millions of 'black-coated workers' whose conditions relating to space, heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation are not covered by any Act of Parliament.

SECTION F

PEST INFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

The problems of Pest Control are many and varied and of considerable economic importance. The age of full employment has given better living conditions to rats and mice as well as to man. Consequently these pests have been given a greater chance of survival against the continual war which must be fought against them to control their numbers. and we hope one day we may eradicate them completely.

New and more modern methods of destruction are continually being sought and tried by scientists in the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and chemists in private enterprise and these are applied by my Pest Control Section where necessary.

The Slough Borough Council is responsible for carrying out the Prevention of Damage of Pests Act 1949.

During 1960 my Pest Control Officer and six manual workers are fully equipped and experienced for carrying out all types of work on pest destruction, disinfection etc.

Pest Control has many aspects, most of which are of far greater importance than the man in the street often realises. Success of operations is dependent on full co operation between the occupiers of premises concerned and the local authority.

The importance of immediate notification to the Department of Signs of rodent infestation cannot be over emphasized. Many pests confine themselves to one particular commodity, but rats and mice will eat and destroy almost anything so that particular emphasis must be placed on the rat proofing of buildings, the storage of food in rat proof containers, and the removal of waste food, and rubbish which serves as harbourage for these pests.

Rodent Control

The greatest number of complaints received are in respect of rats and mice. Notification was received of 411 infestations of rats and 105 of mice. Some 638 visits of investigation from these enquiries were made by District Public Health Inspectors and the Pest Control Officer.

Advice was given to numerous occupiers and owners concerning rat and mouse proofing of business and private dwellings during the year.

Table 12 gives details of the work of the Rodent Operators during 1960.

Annual Agreement Scheme

Once again the response to the Council's Annual Agreement Scheme has shown that occupiers of industrial and business premises appreciate the advantages of being able to call on the services of the Pest Control section at short notice, to keep their premises free of infestation.

It is a fact that the once-prevalent black rat (or ship rat) which caused a considerable amount of damage in business premises in Slough has been virtually wiped out in this locality.

One hundred and eighty five premises were serviced under the Council's scheme during 1960.

Advice on many types of infestation problems has been given in respect of business premises where such properties are serviced by their own specialised personnel.

Sewers

Fortunately for Slough the sewers of the town are not connected with any adjacent borough and when test-baiting is carried out each year we find that they have remained almost free of infestation. Any infestation found is treated in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Table 12 gives the figures of test baits and poison baits used in sewers during 1960.

Workable Area Committee

The South Bucks and East Berks Workable Area Committee meets at six monthly intervals during the year. Numerous points of interest of pest control which were common to members and officers from many local authorities in this area were discussed.

Your Chairman and I are representatives for the Borough Council.

The Workable Area Committee has continued to expand its scope on pest infestation and control. By films and discussion members have learnt of new methods of eradication. Emphasis has been placed on the elimination of particular pests such as cockroaches, crickets and cluster flies and much useful information concerning the technique 'know-how' and life cycle of these pests has been given to us by the scientific and research personnel of the Ministry.

Other Pests

A few complaints of pests other than rodents were received from occupiers of premises, and treatment was carried out as follows.

Beetles
7

Wasps
130

Flies
5

Others
38

Infestation and Disinfection

Bedding and other household articles were disinfected and infested by steam disinfection at Chalvey Pumping Station.

A number of premises and articles were also disinfected and infested by sealing the rooms and using a formaldehyde fumigant or materials which would be damaged by the application of steam. The following table shows the work which was supervised by the Pest Control Officer during the year:-

Premises disinfected	...	23
Bedding etc. disinfected by steam	...	5
Premises disinfested	...	11
Bedding etc. disinfested by steam	...	2

In addition, bedding and articles of clothing from some premises associated with infections and/or vermin were destroyed under the supervision of the Pest Control Officer.

TABLE NO. 12

Rodent Infestation Control (Rodent Operators)								
	PRIVATE DWELLINGS	BUSINESS PREMISES		SEWERS TREATMENT (MANHOLES)	REFUSE DESTRUCTOR TIPS DUMPS ETC.	PARKS HEDGES DITCHES ETC.	OTHER COUNCIL PROPERTIES	TOTALS
		ANNUAL AGREEMENT SCHEME	SHORT TERM ACTION					
1. Investigations made ...	4,032	2,219	118	93	140	185	67	6,854
2. Treatments carried out by the Corporation ...	3,400	1,590	74	1	63	56	19	5,203
3. Poison baits laid ...	17,707	29,029	1,169	8	1,488	1,202	847	51,450
4. Poison baits taken ...	10,368	13,059	662	2	844	541	389	25,865
5. No. of visits made	12,153	2,808	329	186	353	467	120	16,416

SECTION 6

MISCELLANEOUS

Water Supply

In connection with water supplies and swimming bath waters, 81 visits were made during 1960 and the following samples were secured:-

Domestic Water Supplies

Wells 	5
---	---

Swimming Bath Waters

Slough Community Centre 	42
Baylis House 	9
Licensed Victuallers' School 	14
St. Bernard's Convent 	2
Long Close School 	2

Nuisance

The people have become alerted to the energy sapping power of noise and its dangers, which are sinking deep into the people's consciousness.

A great step forward was achieved during the year under review by the addition to the statute book of the Noise Abatement Act 1960.

Perhaps the greatest single noise source - aircraft, is exempted from the provisions of the Act. The Civil Aviation Act 1947 already forbids action against noisy aircraft. When the technical knowledge becomes available, as it must surely do, to quieten aircraft engines, then these exemptions must disappear.

For the first time in general law, a noise or vibration nuisance becomes a statutory nuisance for the purpose of Part 3 of the Public Health Act 1936.

As might be expected there is the 'best practicable means' clause, not unknown in public health legislation - 'it shall be a defence to prove that the best practicable means have been used for preventing, and for counteracting the effect of the noise or vibration'.

This is undoubtedly a complex subject and some noises are difficult to abate or reduce, but so many of the causes of noise could appear to be unnecessary and avoidable.

Noise, although as old as the hills. is a new subject in the technical sense, when we are faced with it as a statutory nuisance, and in the absence of a standard or yardstick with which it can be assessed, it is no simple matter to decide when a noise is a statutory nuisance.

The Act can therefore be regarded as a first step - the tool has been fashioned, and it is encouraging to note that firstly, the Government has set up a committee to examine the nature, sources and effects of the problem of noise, and to advise what further measures can be taken to mitigate it. Secondly, the British Standards Institution has issued a new code of practice on sound insulation and noise reduction in buildings. Furthermore the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the National Physical Laboratory are engaged on the investigation of noise and vibration.

Noise abatement has become fashionable and the future holds some promise to rid our fast moving way of life of this evil. Meanwhile the Noise Abatement Society is to be congratulated on its achievements to date, and it can fairly lay claim to much of the credit for focussing public attention on noise and indeed for the rapid progress towards the first legislative milestone.

Some twenty-two visits were made during the year in connection with a few complaints of noise.

Hairdressers

In 1959 the Slough Borough Council adopted Section 82 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957, which provides for the registration of hairdressers and barbers. These requirements became operative on the 1st June, 1959, and the following month the Slough Borough Council made Byelaws under the same Act for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of the premises, instruments, towels, materials and equipment, together with the cleanliness of persons employed on the premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

At the end of 1960 there were 55 premises registered for the carrying on of the business of hairdresser and/or barber.

Because of the important public health aspects of hairdressing all such establishments were subject to routine inspections by the District Public Health Inspectors.

Offensive Trades

Two rag and bone dealers and a soap boiler are now the only offensive trades scheduled under the Public Health Act, 1936, which operate within the Borough.

In 1960, the Council granted the necessary consent in each case, and inspections throughout the year showed that these premises are being used satisfactorily and no nuisance arose.

House Drainage

One hundred and nineteen complaints were received during 1960 concerning defective or choked drainage and sanitary fittings. The district Inspectors made some 648 visits for the purpose of investigating, testing and supervising remedial works in progress. At five premises drainage systems were re-constructed and other sanitary improvements were effected at 84 premises. Further progress was made with the abolition of cesspools during the year.

Licensing of Petroleum Storage

As required by the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936 the storage of petroleum spirit and mixtures is subject to licence from the local authority which may attach such conditions as it thinks fit. These conditions have become standardised, and with certain slight variations to suit local circumstances, follow codes of practice which are advised by the Home Office.

The storage of any inflammable material must always be regarded as a potential social hazard. Petroleum and its associated products, themselves indeed very complex, are only part of the total amount of inflammable materials which are widely stored and used throughout industry today.

Substances other than petroleum products, however inflammable or dangerous are not subject to any control by the Local Authority.

Within the Borough of Slough at the end of 1960, 172 premises are licensed for the storage of 652,795 gallons of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures and 4 premises for the storage of 11,046 lb. of carbide of calcium. These very considerable quantities stored at so many different points within the Borough constitute an extraordinary fire risk, and consequently it is essential that the Controlling Act and its many regulations are strictly enforced.

The ready assistance by Officers of the Buckinghamshire Fire Service on problems which may arise is most appreciated.

The supervision of premises where petroleum is stored either for sale at filling stations or for use in industry involved during 1960 some 723 inspections by your technical officers. Constant inspection was necessary in order to ensure that the conditions attached to the licences granted by the Council were being observed. In addition, on behalf of the Corporation, the Southern Electricity Board examined the electrical equipment associated with new pumps etc. installed during the year.

Hackney Carriages

In 1960 the Borough Council again decided that 30 hackney carriages were adequate in meeting the needs of the district. This figure has remained unaltered for many years past.

Before granting these licences, each vehicle was subjected to the usual detailed examination and certified as being roadworthy by the Consulting Engineers who were appointed and paid by the Corporation. This arrangement of annual inspections of hackney carriages begun some years ago, has operated to great advantage in ensuring that licences were granted only in respect of vehicles which were mechanically fit and safe for public service. All licensed vehicles were of post-war manufacture and proprietors tend to make frequent changes in order to keep their cars up-to-date.

Licences were granted in respect of 34 hackney carriage drivers.

As a measure of control designed to safeguard the public, each driver must satisfy the Council as to his medical fitness to drive a hackney carriage.

Some 193 visits were made in 1960 by the District Public Health Inspectors in connection with licensing, for the purpose of examination of vehicles on the ranks, for cleanliness, and generally to check on the observance of the Byelaws.

A few complaints were received alleging contraventions of the Byelaws, but upon investigation none was deemed to be of any substance.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that this public service was operated efficiently throughout the year.

Licensing of Game Dealers

Five licences were granted by the Corporation authorising dealers to buy and sell game.

Registries for Female Domestic Servants

No contraventions of the Byelaws dealing with this matter were observed. Visits were made to the three domestic servant agencies for the purpose of inspecting records of applications from employers of servants.

Registration of Dealers in Old Metals and Marine Stores

There are five premises within the Borough where the business of dealing in old metals is transacted. In accordance with Section 6 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, records must be kept in relation to articles purchased by such dealers. Twenty-two visits

inspection were made and it was found that proper records were being kept.

Rating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952

This Act makes it an offence to sell or expose for sale any rating appliance not fitted with a suitable guard.

Your officers made five visits to premises where such new and second hand appliances were exposed for sale but no contraventions of the Act were observed.

* * *

